



JUNCKER BOND



Trump, European Union leaders pull back from trade war

President Donald Trump meets with European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker in the Oval Office of the White House, Wednesday, July 25, 2018, in Washington.

Associated Press

By KEN THOMAS and PAUL
WISEMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and Eu-

ropean leaders pulled back from the brink of a trade war over autos Wednesday and agreed to open talks

to tear down trade barriers between the United States and the European Union. But the agreement was

vague, the coming negotiations with Europe are sure to be contentious and the United States remains em-

broiled in major trade disputes with China and other trading partners.

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EPA chief: U.S. needs a single standard for fuel efficiency

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — The acting head of the Environmental Protection Agency said Tuesday that the United States needs a single standard for fuel efficiency for cars and trucks, signaling a possible showdown with California and other states that could throw the car market into turmoil.

Andrew Wheeler spoke to a small group of reporters at EPA headquarters, ahead of a Trump administration proposal that's expected to freeze some future Obama-era mileage goals. The Trump administration also has said it's looking at challenging California's authority to set its own, tougher mileage standards.

"What we don't want to see



In this July 11, 2018, file photo, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler speaks to EPA staff at EPA Headquarters in Washington.

Associated Press

is two different standards for the country," Wheeler said, calling for a "50-state solution" to disputes over mileage standards. A program for steadily in-

creasing fuel efficiency rules was a key part of the Obama administration's effort to combat climate-changing emissions from fossil fuel.

California has had the authority under the half-century-old Clean Air Act to set its own standards, with a special rule allowing the state to curb its chronic smog problem. More than a dozen states follow California's standards, making for a significant part of the country's car market.

Wheeler said he was committed to sitting down with California officials after the Trump administration releases its proposals, expected as soon as this week.

"We certainly want to work with the state of California to make sure they're comfortable with the direction the government wants to go," he said.

A draft of the EPA proposal obtained last spring by Democratic Sen. Tom Carper of Delaware said the Trump administration was considering freezing the fuel standard at 2020 levels for the next five years. Under the proposal, the fleet of new vehicles would have to average roughly 30 mpg in real-world driving, and that wouldn't change through at least 2025.

The Obama administration had proposed tougher standards — 36 mpg by 2025. California and automakers agreed to the rules

in 2012, setting a single national fuel economy standard.

California has joined 16 other states and the District of Columbia to sue the EPA to try to block any weakening of the standards.

Trump named Wheeler, then the environmental agency's deputy administrator, as acting head after Administrator Scott Pruitt resigned this month amid unrelenting ethics scandals.

Wheeler spoke favorably about two policy issues inherited from Pruitt. One was an initiative to bolster consideration of costs in making some regulatory decisions. The other was a sweeping proposal to change what science the EPA considers in making regulations by giving the agency's chief the option to disregard scientific studies if the underlying data supporting it is not made public. Supporters say that would increase transparency in EPA rulemaking. Public hearings on the proposals have drawn mainly opponents, including scientists and health officials who say the change would throw out bedrock public-health studies that draw on confidential data on individual patients.

"I very much believe in both of those" as far as transparency and consideration of costs and benefits go, Wheeler said.

On the broader rule, "I think we can balance two competing public policy goals" for patient confidentiality and transparency, he said. "There's got to be a way of threading that needle," he said.

Crafting the final form of the rule on studies would happen after the period for public comment ends, Wheeler said. "I'm not positive what the final regulation" will look like, he added.

Wheeler pledged to work with all sides in a policy issue that bedeviled Pruitt — a dispute between corn growers and oil and gas refiners over how much corn-based ethanol that refineries have to blend with petroleum. □

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TRADE WAR

Continued from Front

In a hastily called Rose Garden appearance with Trump, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said the U.S. and the EU have agreed to hold off on new tariffs, suggesting that the United States will suspend plans to start taxing European auto imports — a move that would have marked a major escalation in trade tensions between the allies.

Trump also said the EU had agreed to buy "a lot of soybeans" and increase its imports of liquefied natural gas from the U.S. And the two agreed to resolve a dispute over U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum.

"It's encouraging that they're talking about freer trade rather than trade barriers and an escalating tariff war," said Rufus Yerxa, president of the National Foreign Trade Council and a former U.S. trade official. But he said reaching a detailed trade agreement with the EU would likely prove difficult.

The tone was friendlier than it has been. During a recent European trip, Trump referred to the EU as a "foe, what they do to us in trade." Juncker, after Trump imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, said in March that "this is basically a stupid process, the fact that we have to do this. But we have to do it. We can also do stupid."

On Wednesday, Trump and Juncker said they have agreed to work toward "zero tariffs" and "zero subsidies" on non-automotive goods.

Trump told reporters it was a "very big day for free and fair trade" and later tweeted a photo of himself and Juncker in an embrace, with Juncker kissing his cheek.

"Obviously the European Union, as represented by @JunckerEU and the United States, as represented by yours truly, love each other!" he wrote.

The president campaigned on a vow to get tough on trading partners he accuses of taking advantage of bad trade deals to run up huge trade surpluses with the U.S.

He has slapped taxes on imported steel and aluminum, saying they pose a threat to U.S. national security. The U.S. and EU are now working to resolve their differences over steel and aluminum — but the tariffs are still in place. And they would continue to hit U.S. trading partners like Canada, Mexico and Japan even if the U.S. and the EU cut a deal.

Whatever progress was achieved Wednesday could provide some relief for U.S. automakers. The escalating trade war and tariffs on steel and aluminum had put pressure on auto company earnings. General Motors had slashed its outlook, and shares of Ford Motor Co. and auto parts companies had fallen.

"Our biggest exposure, our biggest unmitigated exposure, is really steel and aluminum when you look at all of the commodities," GM CEO Mary Barra said Wednesday.

Trump has also imposed tariffs on \$34 billion of Chinese imports — a figure he has threatened to raise to \$500 billion — in a dispute over Beijing's aggressive drive to supplant U.S. technological dominance.

China has counter-punched with tariffs on American products, including soybeans and pork — a shot at Trump supporters in the U.S. heartland.

The EU is stepping in to ease some of U.S. farmers' pain. Juncker said the EU "can import more soybeans from the U.S., and it will be done."

Mary Lovely, a Syracuse University economist who studies trade, said, "The Chinese are not going to be buying our soybeans, so almost by musical chairs our soybeans are going to Europe." The trouble is, China last year imported \$12.3 billion in U.S. soybeans, the EU just \$1.6 billion.

Trump's announcement stunned lawmakers who arrived at the White House ready to unload concerns over the administration's trade policies only to be quickly ushered into Rose Garden for what the chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee called "quite a startling" develop-

ment.

"I think everybody sort of changed what they were going to say," said Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan.

Lawmakers said they still needed to see details of the agreement with the EU as well as progress on the other deals. But they said the breakthrough announcement was a step in the right direction.

"We have more confidence in him now than we did before," said Rep. Mike Conaway, R-Texas, the chairman of the House Agriculture Committee.

The White House announcement came as the Trump administration announced a final rule aimed at speeding up approval of applications for small-scale exports of liquefied natural gas. The Trump administration has made LNG exports a priority, arguing that they help the economy and enhance geopolitical stability in countries that purchase U.S. gas.

Juncker said the two sides also agreed to work together to reform the World Trade Organization, which Trump has vehemently criticized as being unfair to the U.S.

The biggest news from the



President Donald Trump and European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker leaves the podiums after speaking in the Rose Garden of the White House, Wednesday, July 25, 2018, in Washington.

Associated Press

Trump-Juncker meeting is that it appears to have delayed an impending trade war over autos. Trump had threatened to tax imported cars, trucks and auto parts, potentially targeting imports that last year totaled \$335 billion.

The European Union had warned that it would retaliate with tariffs on products worth \$20 billion if Trump put duties on cars and auto parts from Europe.

But the auto trade war with Europe is on hold while the U.S. and EU engage in further trade talks. Daniel Iken-son, director of trade studies at the libertarian Cato Institute, warned that the fight could flare up again if Trump grows impatient with Europe.

"Auto tariffs are looming unless the EU buys more U.S. stuff and does other things Trump demands," he said. □

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GOP, Dems focus on messages as summer recess, elections near

By **ALAN FRAM**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats have a plan for helping students afford the growing costs of college, in part by creating a partnership with states to provide two years of tuition-free community college. They also want to take \$5 billion House Republicans have proposed for President Donald Trump's long-promised wall with Mexico and divert it to other immigration programs. One House-passed bill, backed mostly by Republicans, would repeal a tax imposed on some medical devices to help pay for the "Obamacare" health care law, a statute the GOP despises. With another, still a bare-bones outline, Re-



publicans would make last year's \$1.5 trillion tax cut permanent and expand reductions for families, home-schooling and businesses. Lawmakers promoted each of these efforts this week, though none seems likely to become law soon. Yet while the measures may languish, they perform an

age-old campaign-season function for both parties: honing their messages for elections, just over 100 days away, in which the prize is congressional control. The House starts summer recess at week's end, and lawmakers need arguments to take home for town halls and for cam-

paign advertising. Democrats need to gain 23 seats in November's midterms to capture House control, which is widely seen as doable, so both sides are producing measures that may go nowhere but can shore up political weak spots or embarrass the other party. House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., amplified the GOP message to reporters on Tuesday, giving Republicans credit for the strengthening economy and using Democrats as a foil.

"They've scoffed at Americans who've benefited from more money in their paychecks," he said, referring to House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi's comparison of GOP tax cuts for the wealthy to the "crumbs" that went to lower earners. "They're determined to erase this progress. Even more, they want to take this country to a dramatically different place, to the far left."

As evidence, Ryan cited recent proposals from Democrats' liberal wing to abolish U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement and push for "Medicare for All," or government-paid health care. Many Democrats have distanced themselves from both ideas.

Democrats produced ammunition of their own. They announced their "Aim Higher Act," which would make higher education more affordable and restrict federal aid for for-profit schools often criticized for huge student loan defaults. They contrasted it with a GOP bill that would create new partnerships between colleges and industry but also limit how much federal education money students could borrow.

"We want a world where parents don't have to choose between college

for their kids or paying the rent," said Rep. Susan Davis, D-Calif.

On the House Appropriations Committee, Democrats were trying to pare the \$5 billion for Trump's border wall in Republican legislation financing the Homeland Security Department. Democrats' real clout to force that number down resides in the narrowly divided Senate, which will have to reach compromise with the House before the figure is finalized. But meanwhile, Democrats will be able to argue to liberals, Hispanics and other supporters that they battled Trump's wall proposal.

A sizable hurdle facing GOP messaging plans is Trump, who dominates the spotlight by abruptly swerving onto distracting issues. That's recently included Trump's praising Russian President Vladimir Putin while challenging his own intelligence and law enforcement agencies, defending tariffs he's imposed that threaten trade wars and considering the removal of security clearances for political opponents. He's since said he trusts U.S. intelligence, but has also invited Putin to the White House.

With their latest tax cut push, Republicans hope to draw attention to an age-old GOP priority and appeal to constituencies including businesses, high-earners and conservative homeschooling families. Republicans are paying particular attention to health care, which polls show remains a top concern for voters. Democrats see it as their issue, thanks to lingering resentment over GOP efforts to dismantle former President Barack Obama's now-popular law. □



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Cat sitter dies after suburban Denver basement floods

DENVER (AP) — A woman died after rain from the latest round of strong Colorado storms flooded the suburban Denver basement apartment she was staying in to take care of a friend's cat, police said Wednesday. People who live upstairs in the Englewood home called police Tuesday because they were concerned about their neighbor in the basement unit, police spokesman Chad Read said. The neighbor was not at home but officers found Rachael Marie Haber, 32, after

searching in the murky water that reached up to the ceiling. No one else was in the unit. Haber was unresponsive and taken to the hospital, where she died Wednesday morning. The coroner said an autopsy showed injuries consistent with drowning, but further tests on how she died were still pending.

Read told The Denver Post the water in the neighborhood was knee-high when officers arrived. "There was water in the front yards, backyards and a car actually floated down part

of the street and ended up in front of the house," he said. The rain also caused a sinkhole to open in nearby Sheridan, swallowing a vehicle, but the driver was able to get out in time. The muddy and mangled Toyota RAV4 was pulled from the hole on Wednesday.

In southwestern Colorado, water and debris closed roads near an area burned by a large wildfire north of Durango. The flooding stopped the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, leading about 800 passengers to be bused



Utility worker Dino Rodriguez measures 16 feet to the bottom of a hole that was created in Old Pueblo Rd. south of Fountain, Colo., Tuesday, July 24, 2018.

Associated Press

back to Durango, The Durango Herald reported. Another sinkhole opened earlier Tuesday south of Colorado Springs after flooding washed out a culvert following heavy rain there on Monday. A vehicle fell into the culvert

and when the Hanover Fire Department responded to the cave-in, their fire truck also fell into the hole. Both vehicles were removed early Tuesday morning. Two firefighters and the driver of the first vehicle were taken to the hospital. □

Pittsburgh sees hands-on restart of Uber's self-driving cars

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Uber has taken the first step toward relaunching its self-driving cars on Pittsburgh-area streets four months after a fatal accident involving one of the cars in Arizona.

A spokeswoman said the company put a handful of vehicles back on the road at noon Tuesday, with some safety modifications to the cars and driver training. But for now, the cars won't be free of human control or respond to ride-hailing calls. The rollout, taking place only in Pittsburgh where the bulk of Uber's engineering outfit and test track is located, will run the cars only in manual mode with two safety operators called "mission specialists" in the front seat. One of the op-

erators will have their hands on the wheel at all times and the other will document any incidents or issues for future adjustments.

A car in autonomous mode is operated or driven without active physical control by a person sitting in the driver's seat, while a driver operating in manual mode has the ability to brake, turn the steering wheel or control other operations.

"Building best-in-class self-driving technology will take time, and safety is our priority every step of the way," Eric Meyhofer, head of Uber Advanced Technologies Group, wrote in a blog entry posted to Medium.com Tuesday.

Meyhofer outlined some of the changes that have been made to the cars



This March 20, 2018, file photo shows the Uber app on an iPad in Baltimore.

Associated Press

since the fatal accident in Tempe, Arizona, in March. Elaine Herzberg was struck and killed by a self-driving car as she crossed a darkened road outside of the crosswalk. A 300-page in-

vestigative report by the National Transportation and Safety Board showed the driver had been streaming a television show for more than 40 minutes before the accident while

the car was in autonomous mode. Uber halted the program in all of its test markets to launch a safety review of the cars and training. The cars for now are not being reintroduced in the other test markets including San Francisco and Toronto.

Meyhofer said the cars will now have driver-monitoring systems that alert a remote monitor if the drivers are not being attentive. Uber's collision avoidance system, which was already built into the cars, will now remain enabled during manual driving.

The in-car front tablet that is used to show traffic patterns and upcoming directions has been modified "to further reduce potential distractions while the vehicle is in motion." □

Trump tape a turning point in legal game of cat-and-mouse

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The sudden public airing of Donald Trump talking about paying for a Playboy model's silence marks a turning point in the legal game of cat-and-mouse between the president and the lawyer who once promised to take a bullet for him but now seems out to save himself.

The feud between Trump and his onetime legal "fixer," Michael Cohen, escalated Wednesday when an audio recording of their 2016 pre-election conversation was released by Cohen, prompting Trump to tweet, "What kind of a lawyer would tape a client? So sad!"

As the two sides battled over the exact meaning of the sometimes-garbled words on the recording, it was clear that the tape could be just an opening volley. At least a dozen more recordings were seized from Cohen's office as well as hundreds of thousands of documents.



This combination photo shows President Donald Trump and attorney Michael Cohen.

Associated Press

The tape, made just weeks before the 2016 election, appears to undermine Trump's contention that he was not aware of a payment to former Playboy Playmate Karen McDougal, who has alleged she had an affair with the married future president.

That raises questions about possible campaign finance violations. It shows Cohen advising Trump on campaign matters, and that could be of interest to investigators looking

into whether the lawyer violated election laws by orchestrating hush money payouts. Cohen says on the tape he's already spoken with the Trump Organization's finance chief, Allen Weisselberg, on "how to set the whole thing up." Weisselberg's involvement raises questions about whether Trump's private business tried to protect his campaign.

Trump's lawyers say the payments were never made

The tape's revelations also mark a new chapter for Cohen who, as he mulls cooperating with federal prosecutors and perhaps special counsel Robert Mueller, is viewed by many in Trump's orbit as the greatest threat to the former businessman's presidency.

Cohen rose through the ranks of the Trump organization by mimicking his boss' style in handling his personal and political problems. Now he and his own attorney, former Clinton lawyer Lanny Davis, are taking another page from the Trump playbook — fighting a legal battle in the court of public opinion. With his apartment under construction after a pipe burst, Cohen has been holed up in a Midtown Manhattan hotel. From that luxurious bunker, Cohen has grown increasingly concerned that his relationship with the president has fractured beyond repair, according to two people familiar with his views but

not authorized to discuss them publicly.

Cohen, who would make bad stories disappear and travel the globe to make deals for the Trump Organization, now feels increasingly isolated and burned by the attacks against him by Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani and by the president's efforts to play down his former fixer's role.

And when the president's legal team waived attorney-client privilege, prompting Giuliani to declare that the tape was "exculpatory" for Trump, Cohen's team moved to release it, believing it backed up his own version of events, the people said. The attorney told confidants that he was tired of being a punching bag and wanted to try to seize control of the story. The meaning of the tape is up for debate.

Days before the recording, American Media Inc., which owns the National Enquirer, paid \$150,000 to McDougal for the rights to her story about the alleged 2006 affair. She later sued, claiming that AMI paid for the story with the intention of burying it to protect Trump. AMI president David Pecker is a close friend of the president.

Cohen is heard on the tape discussing AMI's payment, and says of "David" that "I'll have to pay him something."

The audio is muffled but Trump can be heard saying something about "cash," and then something about paying by check. Giuliani insists Trump says, "Don't pay with cash."

But Davis, Cohen's attorney, maintains that Trump's reference to "cash" is damaging. "The only people who use cash are drug dealers and mobsters," he told CNN. In another twist in a tale full of them, Davis himself had previously worked with AMI and moved to squash unflattering stories. He did not return calls for comment on Wednesday. Whichever account is accurate, the tape appears to bring limited additional legal exposure to the president himself. But the

revelation of the audio on prime-time television, complete with exaggerated appeals by Davis to Trump's supporters to listen to the president's comments, was designed to impeach the credibility of the president and his leading lawyer.

The recorded conversation took place in early September 2016. But a campaign spokesperson told The Wall Street Journal in November of that year concerning the McDougal agreement: "We have no knowledge of any of this." Trump, for his part, weighed in on Twitter on Wednesday, suggesting the sudden conclusion to the recording should be viewed suspiciously.

"Why was the tape so abruptly terminated (cut) while I was presumably saying positive things?" he tweeted. "I hear there are other clients and many reporters that are taped - can this be so? Too bad!"

Trump's searing tweets marked a new low point in his relationship with Cohen, who worked for the president for a decade and grew close to his family. Though Cohen was Trump's right-hand man at the business, he was not given a major role in the campaign. He did run the president's outreach to faith groups and became a fierce defender on television, including a notable CNN clip in which he demands, "Says who?" after being shown poor poll numbers.

Though he hoped for a key White House position, Cohen was left behind in New York, where he capitalized on his access to the president in business dealings with a number of corporate clients. Famously brusque with most reporters, he vehemently challenged the references to him in a dossier of uncorroborated information about Trump even as he was called in to testify before special counsel Mueller.

After the raid by federal prosecutors, Cohen's relationship with Trump shattered. The men have not spoken for months and Giuliani has routinely lobbed grenades at the attorney. □

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ASHORE TO ASSIST ON HOLIDAY

Immigrant held after Army base pizza delivery released

By LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — An Ecuadorean immigrant who was held for deportation after delivering pizza to a Brooklyn Army installation walked out of an immigration detention center house hours after a judge ordered his immediate release.

Pablo Villavicencio exited the detention center shortly before 9 p.m. Tuesday. He was greeted with hugs from his jubilant wife and two young daughters. He thanked supporters and the media before being whisked away in an SUV.

U.S. District Judge Paul Crotty said Villavicencio, who was being held at a New Jersey lockup, can remain in the United States while he exhausts his right to try to gain legal status.

"Although he stayed in the United States unlawfully and is currently subject to a final order of removal, he has otherwise been a model citizen," the judge wrote.

Villavicencio applied to stay in the U.S. after he married a U.S. citizen, with whom he has two young girls.

The judge cited those children and said they are U.S. citizens.

"He has no criminal history," the judge wrote. "He has paid his taxes. And he has worked diligently to provide for his family."

The U.S. government,

which had wanted the case moved from New York to New Jersey, did not immediately comment on the judge's action.

Adriene Holder, the attorney-in-charge of the civil practice at the Legal Aid Society, said the rule of "law, humanity and morality" prevailed and the Villavicencio family has "finally received a crucial measure of relief from their 53-day nightmare."

"This decision should serve as a rebuke against the Trump Administration and its merciless crusade to tear families apart," Holder said in a statement.

The judge ruled after hearing arguments earlier Tuesday, when he put a government lawyer on the spot over the effort by immigration authorities to enforce a 2010 deportation order. He questioned the need to detain and quickly deport Villavicencio, who's 35 years old.

"Well, the powerful are doing what they want, and the poor are suffering what they must," the judge said after hearing Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph Cordaro defend the government's actions.

"I mean, is there any concept of justice here or are we just doing this because we want to?" the judge asked. "Why do we want to enforce the order? It makes no difference in terms of the larger issues facing the country."

Cordaro argued for the case to be transferred to New Jersey because Villavicencio is detained there. He said legal precedent dictated that New Jersey was the proper venue, an argument the judge rejected.

Cordaro said Villavicencio would still be able to pursue his application to become a legal U.S. resident after he is deported.

The case has attracted widespread attention amid a crackdown by the administration of President Donald Trump on illegal immigration. Trump, a Republican, has said his policies are designed to keep the country safe.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, said the federal government has "cruelly" kept Villavicencio from his wife, Sandra Chica, and two daughters "for no legitimate reason."

Villavicencio was arrested on June 1 while making a delivery to the garrison in Fort Hamilton. When he arrived at Fort Hamilton, guards requested identification, and he produced a city identification card. A background check showed he had been ordered to leave the United States in 2010 but stayed.

Villavicencio's two girls, ages 2 and 4, played with toys on Tuesday as courtroom spectators around them observed the legal arguments. Villavicencio was not in



Pablo Villavicencio leans out of an SUV while talking to reporters after being released from the Hudson County Correctional Facility, Tuesday, July 24, 2018, in Kearny, N.J.

Associated Press

court. temporarily blocked his
Another judge had already deportation. □

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Grim house search yields more bodies in Greek fires, 81 dead

By **COSTAS KANTOURIS** and **DEREK GATOPOULOS**, Associated Press

MATI, Greece (AP) — Rescuers intensified a grim house-to-house search Wednesday for more casualties from a deadly forest fire outside Athens, as the country's military said it was using footage from U.S. combat drones and surveillance aircraft to try to determine whether arsonists were behind the blaze and stop future attacks.

Joint patrols of the Fire Service, army personnel, and volunteer rescuers discovered more bodies in the gutted homes near the port of Rafina east of Athens, raising the death toll to 81.

Nikos Giannopoulos stood with his wife and two children outside the destroyed home of his 88-year-old mother, waiting for news as rescuers searched each room.



A member of a rescue team searches a burned house in Mati, east of Athens, Wednesday, July 25, 2018.

Associated Press

They found her charred body in the bathroom. Giannopoulos had searched the home earlier

but failed to spot his mother's body in the blackened interior. Her remains were put into

a yellow body bag and placed in a wooden coffin, and Giannopoulos vented anger that his mother

had not been rescued as Monday's ferocious wildfire raged down from the mountains and tore through vacation homes.

"She died helpless, an 88-year-old woman. I lost my nearby home in the fire, and my mother's was burned too," he said, his voice cracking with emotion. "So many people died that it took the rescuers three days to find her."

The fire forced hundreds to sprint to sea for safety, swimming out into the rough waters to avoid the suffocating smoke until they were picked up by boats after nightfall. Divers and coast guard patrols were still searching Wednesday for bodies at sea.

The mayor of the fire-ravaged Marathon area, Ilias Psinakis, said many residents only had a few minutes to save themselves. He described losing his own home. □

Police search office of ex-security aide to French president

By **ELAINE GANLEY**
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French police searched the presidential palace office Wednesday of the former security aide to President Emmanuel Macron who was seen beating a protester in a video that triggered a political firestorm.

An official at the presidential Elysee Palace confirmed that Alexandre Benalla, who was fired last week, was present during the search. The official wasn't authorized to speak publicly and asked not to be named.

Authorities opened a judicial investigation of Benalla's actions at a May Day protest after Le Monde newspaper identified him as the person acting violently in the video it released last week. Investigators searched Benalla's apartment on Saturday. Macron's office has been criticized for not disclosing the accusations weeks ago and the way it handled them. The French leader said Tuesday night at a gathering of officials and



French President Emmanuel Macron greets people after visiting La Patisserie Bordelaise, a pastry shop in Bagneres de Bigorre, France, Wednesday July 25, 2018.

Associated Press

lawmakers from his centrist party that he alone was responsible.

On Wednesday, Macron brushed away questions during an official visit in the Pyrenees, where he was welcomed with local songs. "Stop getting so excited about this affair," he told inquiring journalists. "Stay

calm. I'm with people here. We're happy and all is well." The dismissive reaction was unlikely to sit well with opposition lawmakers. They are among the members of parliament who are questioning presidential officials as part of two inquiries set up to find out why Benalla was kept on the job after

the May incident. Lawmakers also want to know why Benalla's behavior while accompanying police officers at the protest was not immediately reported to judicial officials. His punishment at the time — two weeks' suspension and what has been described in inquiry

testimony as a demotion — have been seen by many legislators as inadequate.

Testimony by the director of Macron's office, Patrick Strzoda, might have made matters worse. Strzoda, who said he decided the punishment, told the Senate inquiry commission Wednesday that Benalla's pay was not withheld during the two-week suspension in May, but was being deducted from vacation time owed him on his firing date.

Macron addressed the issue for the first time on Tuesday night, six days after the beating video surfaced.

"If they want someone responsible, tell them he is in front of you," Macron said at the party event. "Because the one responsible is me and me alone. Tell them they can come and get me." Some lawmakers criticized the president for failing to address the nation and instead choosing a forum where neither the press nor the public was present. A video of the event was leaked to some French media. □

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Thousands affected as Ryanair cabin crews go on strike

By ARITZ PARRA

MADRID (AP) — Cabin crew workers for low-cost airline Ryanair went on strike Wednesday in four European countries over working conditions, forcing tens of thousands of passengers to make last-minute travel adjustments at the peak of the summer holiday season.

Ryanair said the 50,000 customers affected by the cancellation of 600 flights over the two days were given alternative seats or offered full refunds.

Labour unions in Portugal, Spain, Belgium and Italy claim that employees of Ryanair or its subsidiaries have reduced leave allowances and access to state benefits because they were hired under contracts governed by countries where they are not based.



People queue at the Ryanair airline customer service desk during the first of two days cabin crew strike at Adolfo Suarez-Barajas international airport in Madrid, Wednesday, July 25, 2018.

Associated Press

In response, the Dublin-based airline published June salary slips on its website. It argued that pilots and cabin crew are fairly paid in Portugal, Spain and Belgium, the three coun-

tries where strikes initially were called for Wednesday and Thursday.

Chiara Luchi, a 21-year-old student who planned to fly back to Pisa, Italy with her father after a weeklong

holiday in Madrid, said they found their flight was cancelled when they arrived at Madrid airport.

"I have sympathy for the workers, but I don't think this is fair for the customers and those who have to travel because they need to work," Luchi said as she stood in a line with dozens of other stranded passengers waiting to file complaints.

After some back and forth, Ryanair offered to pay to put the father and daughter on a flight to Rome with another airline.

The two main unions representing pilots and cabin crews in Spain said negotiations with Ryanair over the contracts of more than 4,000 cabin crew members across Europe had failed. Spain had the most planned cancellations

ahead of the strike, with nearly one out of four daily Ryanair flights suspended. Spain's Ministry of Development said disruptions were minimal Wednesday, and the flight cancellations and delays that did take place were caused by walkouts by Italy-based crews.

Earlier, authorities required Ryanair to ensure that all flights serving the Spanish islands operated, and that at least 35 percent of domestic flights and 59 percent of international ones were to be unaffected.

In Italy, at least 165 flights were cancelled, according to the Italian civil aviation authority. Ryanair didn't immediately confirm the number, but said in a statement that cancellations were due to a "strike action by a small number of cabin crew in Italy." □

Barcelona taxis strike to protest ride-hailing apps

By RENATA BRITO

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Taxi drivers from all corners of Spain drove to Barcelona to join a 2-day strike that started Wednesday in protest of the growing number of cars operating under ride-hailing apps. Uber and Cabify briefly halted service, saying some of their drivers were attacked. The taxi drivers, who joined a raucous protest in front of the Arch of Triumph, oppose the recent suspension of additional authorization required for ride-hailing companies to operate in Barcelona.

They want a previously

agreed ratio of 30 taxi licenses for every authorized ride-hailing car to be honored. The current ratio in Catalonia, the Spanish region of which Barcelona is the capital, stands at about 6.7 to 1.

Thousands of demonstrators lit firecrackers and honked car horns as they marched to a government building to demand more regulation on the ride-booking apps they claim are taking away their jobs. Later Wednesday, Uber and Cabify announced they were temporarily suspending service in Barcelona after some of their

drivers were assaulted on the sidelines of the pro-taxi demonstration.

Eduardo Martin, spokesman for Unauto, the Spanish national association for drivers of ride-hailing apps, including Uber and Cabify, said there had been dozens of assaults of Uber and Cabify drivers and passengers in Barcelona, mainly in front of hotels. Two drivers were hospitalized, he said. One was left unconscious, and the other was taken to the hospital with first-degree burns to his face after an acid attack. Cars were left with broken windows and wing mirrors. □



A protestor burns flares during a taxi strike in Barcelona, Spain, Wednesday, July 25, 2018.

Associated Press

South Sudan's warring leaders agree to share power, again

Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) —

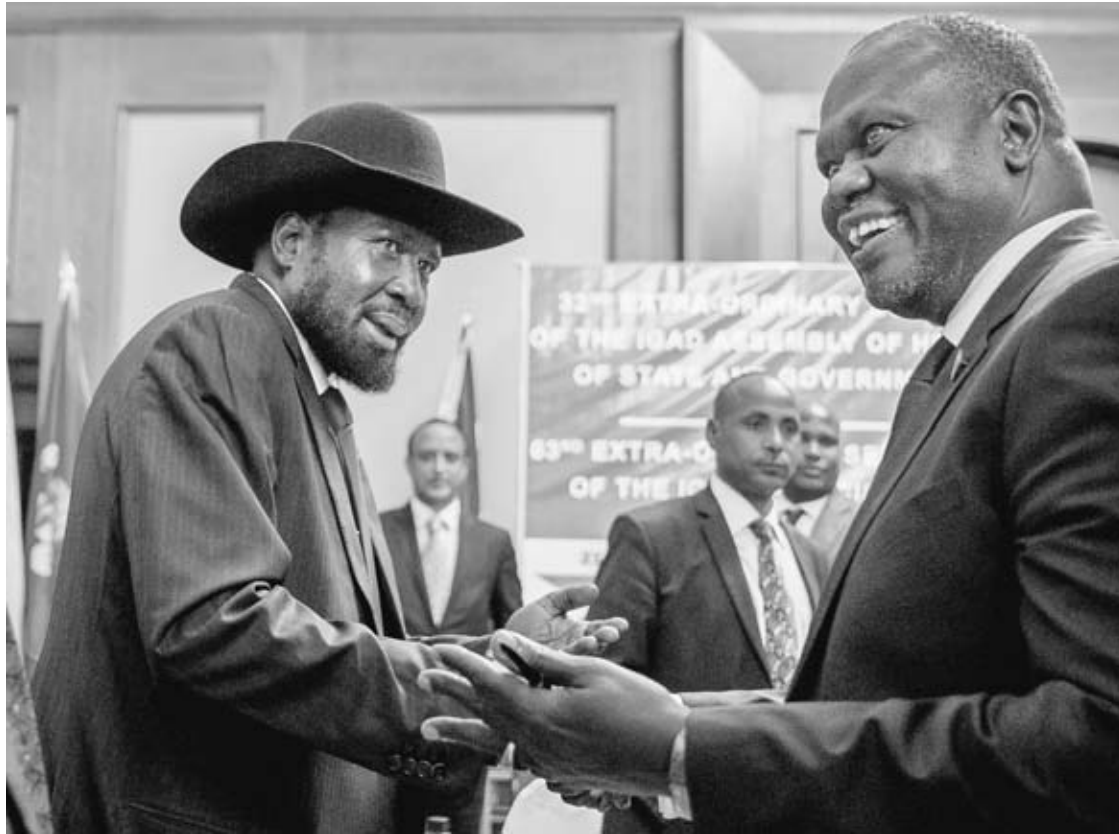
South Sudan's warring leaders have agreed to share power once again in the latest effort to end a five-year civil war, officials announced Wednesday, days after the United States said it was "skeptical" the two men whose rivalry has killed tens of thousands could lead the way to peace.

South Sudan's information minister, Michael Makuei Lueth, announced the agreement between President Salva Kiir and armed opposition leader Riek Machar to reporters in Sudan's capital, Khartoum.

The agreement initialed Wednesday will be signed on Aug. 5, Sudan's Foreign Minister Al-Dirdiri Mohamed Ahmed said.

Kiir will lead South Sudan's government during a transitional period and Machar will return as first vice president, Sudan's official SUNA news agency reported.

The opposition can "live with" the agreement, but it will fail if early steps such as security arrangements aren't implemented, Manasseh Zindo, who has been directly involved with the negotiations for Mach-



In this file photo dated Thursday, June 21, 2018, South Sudan's President Salva Kiir and opposition leader Riek Machar shake hands during peace talks in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Associated Press

ar's group, told The Associated Press.

A similar arrangement, however, fell apart in July 2016 when fighting erupted in the capital, Juba, and Machar fled the country on foot.

The civil war broke out in December 2013 between supporters of Kiir and his then-deputy Machar. More

than 2 million people have since fled the country in Africa's largest refugee crisis since the Rwandan genocide in 1994, while millions of others have been left near famine.

Multiple cease-fires, including a "permanent" one signed by Kiir and Machar weeks ago, have been violated within hours. Mean-

while, both sides have been accused of abuses. A U.N. report this month described how government troops and allied forces hung people from trees, burned others alive and raped or gang-raped dozens of women and girls.

The new agreement comes as South Sudan's leaders are under growing pres-

sure from an impatient international community to end the fighting. Under the threat of a U.N. arms embargo Kiir and Machar agreed to resume talks in June, their first face-to-face discussions in nearly two years.

Earlier this month the U.N. Security Council imposed the arms embargo anyway.

The U.S. earlier this week warned that another power-sharing agreement between Kiir and Machar "may sow the seeds of another cycle of conflict." The White House press secretary's statement said the U.S. won't fund South Sudan's government or act as guarantor unless the peace process includes civil society, churches, women and other excluded groups and is no longer a "narrow agreement between elites."

The fracturing of South Sudan's opposition into multiple groups further challenges the new power-sharing agreement as some refuse to sign on.

Machar will be among five vice presidents in the new transitional government, according to the 11-page agreement. □

Zimbabwe's top opposition won't boycott vote despite worries

By FARAI MUTSAKA, Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) —

Zimbabwe's biggest opposition party won't boycott Monday's historic election despite a biased electoral commission that is acting in the interests of President Emmerson Mnangagwa, the party's leader said Wednesday.

Nelson Chamisa, head of the MDC opposition coalition, urged supporters to vote "overwhelmingly for change" in the first election since the November resignation of longtime leader Robert Mugabe.

"We can't boycott our victory," Chamisa said. "Winners don't quit."

Zimbabwe's election commission has not addressed the MDC party's concerns,



Nelson Chamisa, centre, head of the MDC opposition alliance is seen during a press briefing at the party headquarters in Harare, Wednesday, July 25, 2018.

Associated Press

including alleged media manipulation, problems with the voters' roll and ballot papers and reports of food distribution to voters by the ruling ZANU-PF party, Chamisa said at a news

conference.

"There has been a consistent negation of international standards," he said. The opposition leader added that his party has adopted "mechanisms" to

counter vote-rigging but did not give details.

Mnangagwa, a former deputy president who took over after Mugabe stepped down under military and ruling party pressure, has promised a free and fair election as he seeks to have international sanctions lifted. Past votes have been marred by violence and irregularities.

The election commission has said it will follow the law and that it is ready for the vote in the southern African nation.

Police had banned an opposition demonstration planned for Wednesday because of the dispute over electoral procedures. Similar demonstrations earlier this year had been allowed.

Police on Wednesday had an unusually heavy presence outside the offices of the electoral commission, with two truckloads of officers and a water cannon positioned near a barricade. Monday's vote is the first without Mugabe on the ballot since independence from white minority rule in 1980.

Despite concerns about possible vote-rigging, opposition groups are operating in a freer environment than in the past.

A record of more than 20 presidential candidates and 128 political parties will participate in the election; there are more than five million registered voters. Western observers, banned during the Mugabe era, are invited. □

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Trapped Syrian White Helmets live in fear, seek a way out

By SARAH EL DEEB

BEIRUT (AP) — White Helmets volunteers trapped in southern Syria after the government seized areas they operated in said Wednesday they live in fear of being caught in the dragnet of the government, which considers them one of its staunchest enemies, and are desperately seeking a way out.

Hundreds of the volunteer rescue workers — who have toiled in conflict-ravaged opposition areas for years — have failed to make it out of southern Syria in a complex international evacuation.

The evacuation of more than 400 White Helmets was executed under the cover of darkness across the tightly sealed frontier with the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights last weekend as a government offensive unfolded.

In the quickly changing battlefield, the volunteers were unable to access roads to the frontier in time for the first-of-its-kind evacuation that involved international coordination between six countries — Israel, the U.S. Britain, Germany, Jordan and Canada.

Advancing government forces and an affiliate of the Islamic State group expanding in the region quickly seized territory as the armed opposition crumbled or surrendered in the face of a month-long government offensive.

Two of the volunteers who couldn't make it told The Associated Press they tried but couldn't reach the frontier. The two, who have been part of the group for years, had been cleared



In this Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2016, file photo, Syrian Civil Defense White Helmets rescue workers move victim from site of airstrikes in al-Sakhour neighborhood of the rebel-held part of eastern Aleppo, Syria.

Associated Press

for evacuation. But they were caught between the IS-affiliate militants and government forces. They are currently confined to about 10 square kilometers (3.8 square miles) where they can move between several small villages safely.

They live incognito, using off-roads to avoid government checkpoints and move in tight circles, often with protection, looking out for any signs of government troop movements. Their villages are besieged by government troops and Russian military police. After living for years under opposition administration, the Syrian flag now flies in their villages.

One of the two, who is in charge of a team of 30 volunteers, said he is scrambling to find ways to save

them and their families.

"I have four kids and I am wanted. The (government) has declared war on everything that is civil defense," he said, using the other name for the White Helmets. He spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of being arrested.

For those who stayed behind, the psychological pressure is even more crippling than the physical entrapment.

Unlike other civilians who decided to stay in the government-controlled south, the White Helmets say it is impossible to trust the government to reconcile. Rumors and media campaigns are making them even more jittery.

The government and its allies have waged a concerted campaign against the volunteers for years, accus-

ing them of being agents of foreign powers, being terrorists for working in rebel-controlled areas and of staging chemical attacks. The group, which had more than 3,000 volunteers in opposition-held areas, has saved thousands of lives since 2013 and documented government attacks on civilians and other infrastructure. Its volunteers were repeatedly targeted, and more than 250 were killed on duty.

The evacuation over the weekend through the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights to Jordan has made things worse, said the other volunteer, a father of three who also spoke on condition of anonymity. Israel and Syria are formally at war. Collaborating with Israel is considered grand treason. "The accusation of being

an agent was the biggest (concern) ... it has become justified for the government to do anything to us."

The trapped volunteers often meet at night to discuss ways to leave, though they have few options.

"Some show their fear, some hide it. Some try to keep morale high," said the father of three.

"We are facing an unknown destiny," he said. "If we knew we face death that would be accepted. But our fate is unknown: torture, detention, maybe death or maybe survival if we are lucky," he said. "Life without hope or dreams is more difficult than dying."

The two volunteers said moving to opposition-held Idlib in the north — an option available for those who refused reconciliation — is not available to them. It would mean taking the risk of going through government checkpoints to another dangerous area considered to be an even larger prison.

They said they have not been able to contact those who evacuated to Jordan. A family member said the evacuees had their phones taken away from them.

The team leader called on the international community to negotiate an exit for them or at least guarantee them protection. "Otherwise we will continue to live homeless," he said.

The other volunteer said when there is a will there is a way: Ransoms have been paid to free Western hostages, and negotiations secured the evacuations of others, including Islamic State militants at one point. □

Powerful ex-Colombia president vows to resign from Senate

By MANUEL RUEDA

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) —

Influential former President Alvaro Uribe said he would resign from his Senate seat Tuesday after Colombia's Supreme Court ordered him to testify on allegations of witness tampering.

Uribe tweeted that he felt "morally impeded" from continuing in his role as a senator while also mounting a defense against accusations that he has he refuted.

"I've proceeded according to the law and my rights," he wrote on Twitter, while decrying the Supreme Court's press release as a "pre-judgment."

For several years the powerful ex-chief of state has been involved in a protracted legal dispute related to long-simmering and vehemently denied claims of ties to right-wing paramilitary groups.

The conservative Uribe accused Ivan Cepeda, a senator at the opposite end of the political spectrum, of pressuring prison inmates to falsely state that he was linked to one such group.

The Supreme Court found no evidence to support Uribe's claim but decided



Former President and re-elected Senator Alvaro Uribe talks to congressmen during the inauguration of the newly-elected legislature in Bogota, Colombia, Friday, July 20, 2018.

Associated Press

there were grounds to investigate him for manipulating witnesses instead.

In a statement, the court provided few details about the allegations but said that after Uribe's case against Cepeda was blocked from going forward in February, "People close to ex-President Uribe began new acts of manipulating witnesses." The court said both Uribe and another lawmaker, Al-

varo Hernan Prada, would be asked to respond to accusations of "bribery and procedural fraud."

Cepeda told The Associated Press that Uribe's associates had offered one witness a bribe in exchange for retracting accusations against the former president.

"Colombia is showing today that no one is above the law," Cepeda said.

The case comes just two weeks before President-elect Ivan Duque will be sworn into office, having handily won a runoff election against ex-guerrilla Gustavo Petro thanks in large part to Uribe's support. Though Uribe left the presidency in 2010, he still has legions of supporters in Colombia.

Many Colombians had speculated whether Uribe

would use his position in the Senate and close relationship with Duque to sway the new president on decisive matters, such as making changes to the government's peace accord with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

On Tuesday evening, Duque said Uribe has the right of due process and presumption of innocence. "We express our solidarity to ex-President Uribe and his family in these moments," he said. "And we are confident that his honor and innocence will prevail."

Uribe has been dogged by allegations of links to drug cartels and paramilitaries since the start of his political career in the early 1980s, when the civil aviation agency he led was accused of giving air licenses to drug traffickers. U.S. State Department cables declassified in May showed U.S. officials were told more than two decades ago that Uribe had ties to drug cartels.

His brother, Santiago Uribe, is awaiting trial on charges that he was a leader of a death squad called the "Twelve Apostles" that was run from his cattle ranch. □

Peru's shoestring circuses struggle to survive

By FRANKLIN BRICENO

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Inside a yellow and blue tent overlooking the desert hills of Peru's capital city, the Tony Perejil circus comes to life.

A set of brown goats hobble up a narrow plank. A woman balances a newspaper rolled into an inverted cone on her nose. Another performer does acrobatics on horseback before half-empty rows of spectators.

The mom-and-pop style spectacle is one of about a hundred remaining circuses in Peru that manage to eke out a living despite waning public enthusiasm for clown and animal acts in an age of viral internet videos and cellphones.

On a recent night, Jose Alvarez tallied the ticket sales for the circus named after



In this July 8, 2018 photo, homes in the Puente Piedra shantytown light up the landscape around the Tony Perejil circus set up on the outskirts of Lima, Peru.

Associated Press

his father and sighed when he realized they'd earned less than \$40.

"Lima is lousy," the 52-year-old businessman said, adding he'd move his circus north toward Peru's border

with Ecuador in search of a brighter future.

These days, Lima's circus acts find themselves increasingly pinched for space and money.

Urban expansion in the city

of 10 million inhabitants has made it tough to find enough space to set up a tent in a centrally located neighborhood. Gangs of delinquents charge up to \$10 a day for circuses to set up shop in depressed barrios. And a 2011 law prohibits them from using wild animals in their shows.

"Any available space is sold to malls," lamented Alvarez, who also performs as a clown. "No one thinks about the circus."

Alvarez remembers happier times in the 1980s, when his father filled their circus tent with people even though Peru was in the midst of an economic crisis and a war raged between the state and Sendero Luminoso guerrillas.

"The circuses were never affected," he said.

His family's circus today still maintains much of the old-time traditions of the past: Clowns use makeup to inflate the appearance of their lips, make jokes and don goofy, oversized overalls. A woman in a pink leotard sways from a cord dangling from the ceiling as children watch, mouths agape. The tent has a traditional cone-shaped roof and a simple dirt stage.

Even the profession of clowning has hit hard times, Alvarez said, adding that while some 500 clowns across the country have their own labor association, they have been unable to improve meager wages and living conditions.

"The word 'clown' is used incorrectly in Peru," he said. "It's understood as a pejorative." □

LOCAL

Sgt. Pepper's Friends 3 Year Anniversary

ORANJESTAD — Sgt. Pepper's Friends is a non-profit animal rescue organization founded and located in Aruba. Their dogs and cats are available for adoption in the United States, Canada, Aruba, the Netherlands and Sweden as of now. Every country they add to the list requires careful research, but they hope open up to families in other countries in the future as well. The organization loves our beautiful island. However, the number of neglected, homeless, abandoned, sick and hungry dogs and cats wandering the streets is truly disturbing. Through donations and the hard work of their volunteers and their adoptive families, Sgt. Pepper's Friends are able to rescue many animals in need.

Where it all began...

Three years ago, it all started when a beloved and special dog passed away much too early. Honoring this special dog, Sgt. Pepper's Friends foundation was born. From only a handful of people starting up a new foundation, we've grown into a well-known organization with an amazing group of (international) volunteers and team of foster families, in only three years. We have the biggest social media following in Aruba and have been able

to make an impact on the lives of many animals on the island. For the future we hope to be able to contribute to educating our local community and create a much bigger impact for adult dogs as soon as our Sgt. Pepper's Friends Home is finished!

We hope you can join in celebrating our three-year anniversary by contributing to our fundraiser. With even a donation of \$3 you are helping change the lives of animals and helping create a better future. We have a few big projects that will really make our new space come together. We know with your support we can make it happen.

We currently have a cat house but we don't have a space to host kittens when waiting to find foster homes. We have lots of visitors including local children's programs; a formal education area would be so valuable in educating the next generation on how to care for animals. The main big goal of the house is to host adult dogs where volunteers, visitors and tourist can come exercise and socialize adult dogs. We hope you will consider helping our mission and make a donation to celebrate our three-year anniversary. □



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Murano Bijoux and More at the Paseo Herencia Aruba



PALM BEACH — We found this unique store in Aruba : the Authentic Murano Glass jewelry and decorations, from Murano- Italy, to Aruba. "Murano Glass" is only made on the island of Murano. Murano is one of the islands in Venice, "Venezia" as Italians say.

Murano Bijoux and More is the only store with the concept of Murano home decorations and jewelry in the Caribbean. They have a selection of authentic murano art to make your house look spectacular, and fine jewelry made of glass, using many ancient techniques from the best glass masters in Venice/ Italy.

The manager, Esmeralda Saetta, came with this idea since she has an Italian background, she has worked for years in the tourism business in Aruba, but she wanted to start a project with her family, and at the same time honor part of her heritage.

They bring to Aruba the best brands from Murano, such as "Antica Murrina", "Corte Murrina" and others.

Venetian master glassmakers have been appreciated from centuries. From the romans and people from Egypt and Syria they learnt ancient techniques to turn the humblest materials as sand and soda into mas-

terpieces of lightness and polychrome transparency.

All the pieces are unique, since they are all hand-made. Murano is art, tradition, style and design, it's like an explosion of colors and shapes, from the traditional "millefiori" to the blown glass for lamps, vases and sculptures, the "avventurina" technique, that consists in introduce particles of copper in the glass in the appropriate moment, the exact temperature, so it makes the special effect of an explosion inside the glass bead. The magnificent appearance and coloring of murano glass is achieved by adding gold or silver foil to the glass mixture and/ or adding minerals such as zinc for white, cobalt for blue, manganese for violet, and so on, the glass is not painted, that's why it never will change color. Murano Bijoux and More is a piece of Venice in Aruba.

Murano Bijoux and More is located at the Paseo Herencia Mall, and is open Monday to Saturday: 10:30am-1:00pm and 3:00pm-10:00pm; Sunday: 6:00pm-10:00pm. For more info check out their Facebook page facebook.com/muranobijouxandmore and also find them on Instagram at @muranoaruba or send a mail to mura-noaruba@gmail.com

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A loyal little friend of Aruba

PALM BEACH —Recently, Ms. Darline S. de Cuba had the great pleasure to honor a loyal and friendly visitor of Aruba as Distinguished visitor at their home away from home.

The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20-35 and more consecutive years.

Kip Zirke is a resident of Berea Ohio and has been honored as Distinguish visitor for his return to our island for 10 consecutive years. Kip is here with Dad Chris, Mom Heather, big sister Aurelia and Grandma Linda and are vacationing at The Marriott Surf Club.

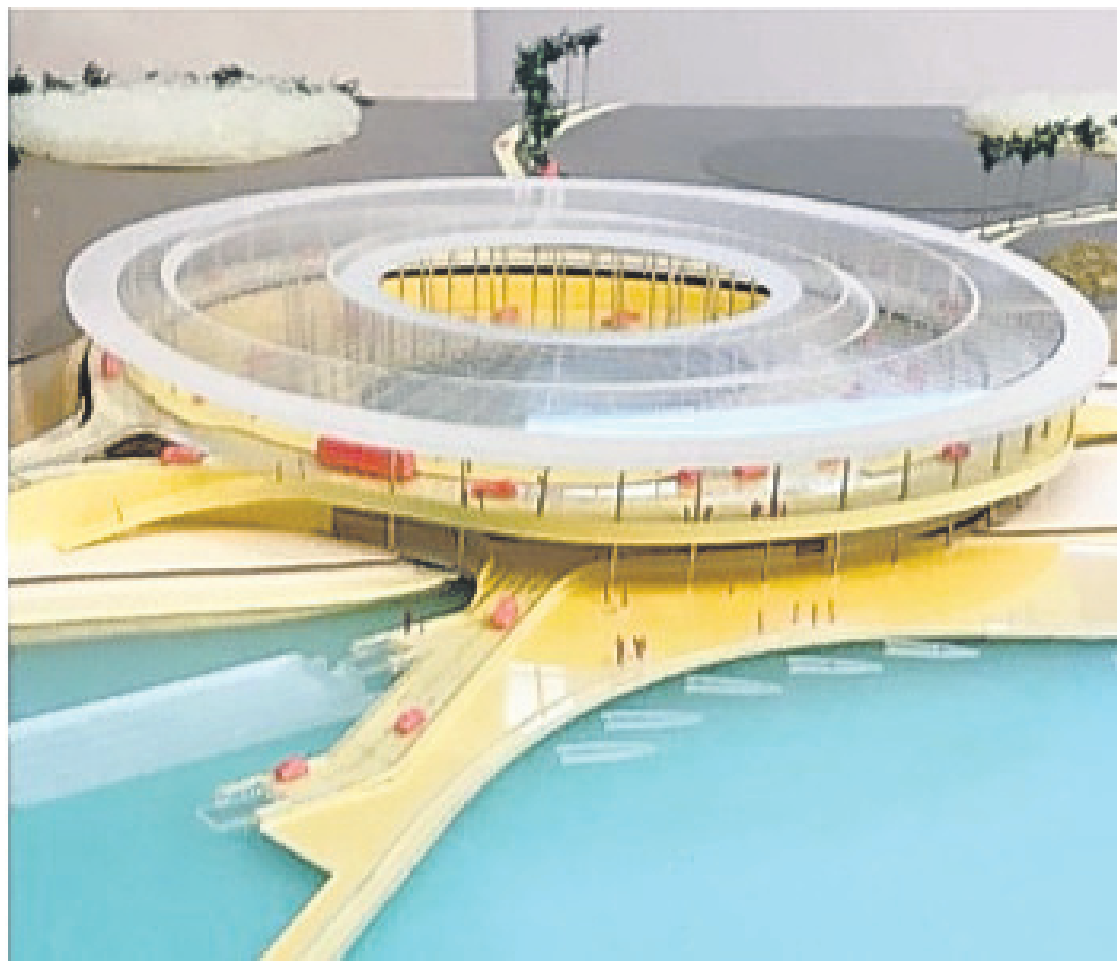
Ms. Darline de Cuba of Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Jenny Boekhoudt member of Marriott Surf Club attended

the ceremony and handed out some presents to the honoree and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and for making Aruba their home away from home for so many years.

Kip stated that the main reasons for returning to Aruba is the lovely weather, the people of Aruba, the Iguanas and he loves making sand castles in our lovely white beaches. □



Ferry from Aruba to Curaçao closer to reality



ORANJESTAD - For many years fantasized, debated and proposed but now becoming reality: a fast ferry connecting Aruba with Curaçao. Next year the ferry should be in operation with a carry capacity of at least

800 passengers.

Minister of Transport has announced that before the end of this year a contract will be sealed with a ferry provider. Already Spanisch company Fred

Olson Express has shown interest in operating a ferry service between the island for many years. Also Dutch company Waterbus and a still unknown Turkish company have applied.

For the local economies the ferry would be a blessing. As the boat's capacity will also allow 300 cars on board. Freight between

Aruba and Curaçao is very expensive, so the ferry also creates business opportunities. According to projections, most passengers will be local. However the Aruban government sees a push for its tourism also.

Cheaper than airfare

Tourists can take the boat to the neighbouring island and return in one day if they want. Or they can extend their holiday on the other island. This is also possible by plane however the airfare is expensive. A half hour flight costs more than 200 dollars including air tax. Whilst the planned ticket price for a trip by ferry won't surpass 100 florin, a little more than 55 dollar.

The governments of both islands have already discussed issues like border control and other migration issues. In a couple of months both governments will sign their first agreement on this and as mentioned, later on the contract follows with a ferry provider.

The selected company has to invest also heavily in the ferry terminal that is planned in San Nicolas. As the Aruban government

only invests in infrastructure to and from the terminal and the cleaning of the harbor's terrain as it's contaminated by the nearby oil refinery.

The terminal needs sufficient space for all the passengers and cars arriving and also to accommodate a boat of 120 meters. The Aruban student Zaira Pourier studying in the Netherlands, finished her study on the ferry terminal in San Nicolas. Pourier studies architecture and designed a logistic roundabout. She got help from San Nicolas Business Association that promotes business in the industrial city. The result shows a roundabout of different levels: the lowest level is for passengers on foot leaving or arriving, in this way preventing congestion.

The roof also contains solar panels producing sufficient energy for at least a 100 households or for electric busses in the future. The examiners at the Dutch university were very impressed and rewarded the Aruban student with a high score on her finals. But is still has to be seen if the selected company at the end of this year will go ahead with her design. □



SPORTS



In this Aug. 11, 2016, file photo, Missy Franklin starts a women's 100-meter backstroke heat during the swimming competitions at the 2016 Summer Olympics, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Associated Press

U.S. swim nationals set to go on without banned Lochte

By BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

IRVINE, Calif. (AP) — Two years to the day the Tokyo Olympics open, Katie Ledecky is swimming as fast as ever, Caeleb Dressel is heralded as a potential Michael Phelps and Missy Franklin is attempting a comeback.

As for Ryan Lochte, he's banned again.

Ledecky is entered in five events at this week's U.S. national championships, including a double in the 100-meter freestyle and 800 free on Wednesday. The five-time Olympic champion is back in Irvine, where she set one of her 14 world records in the 400 free at the 2014 edition of the meet. "That was a memorable one, not to say all of them aren't," Ledecky said Tuesday. "But that was especially memorable and that was my first meet at this pool. I do like this pool, and I'm hoping that I can put up some good swims this week."

Continued on Page 20

RING MY BELL

Bucs beat Indians for 11th straight

Pittsburgh Pirates' Josh Bell looks up after hitting a two-run home run in the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Cleveland Indians, Tuesday, July 24, 2018, in Cleveland.

Associated Press
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Marte, Polanco, Bell HR; Bucs beat Indians for 11th straight

By The Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Starling Marte, Gregory Polanco and Josh Bell each hit a two-run homer, and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Cleveland Indians 9-4 on Tuesday night for their 11th straight win.

The Pirates routed the Indians for the second straight night. Marte homered in the first inning, drove in three runs and extended his career-high hitting streak to 17 games.

Polanco homered and Corey Dickerson tripled in two runs when Pittsburgh scored five times in the second. Bell hit a home run in the fifth. The Pirates have homered in a season-high nine straight games, hitting 22 home runs in that span.

Pittsburgh has won 11 in a row for the first time since Sept. 12-22, 1996. The Pirates have won 13 of 14 and are 17-8 since June 24. Pittsburgh has outscored its opponents 43-8 in the last five games.

Joe Musgrove (4-4) allowed two runs and five hits in seven innings for his first win since June 29.

Shane Bieber (5-2), called up from Triple-A Columbus to make the start, allowed seven runs in 1 2/3 innings. The short outing forced the Indians to use seven relievers.

PHILLIES 7, DODGERS 4, 16 INNINGS

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Trevor Plouffe hit a three-run homer off outfielder Enrique Hernandez with one out in the 16th inning, and Philadelphia outlasted Los Angeles in a game that lasted nearly six hours.

After using eight pitchers, the Dodgers turned to Hernandez (0-1) in the 16th. He got Nick Williams to fly out, then walked Jesmuel Valentin and Jorge Alfaro before Plouffe hit an opposite-field shot for his first homer of the season and second career walk-off, ending the game after 5:55.

Eight Phillies relievers combined to allow one run and six hits over 11 impressive innings, with Vince Velasquez (7-8) pitching the top of the 16th. Velasquez, who tossed seven scoreless in-



Pittsburgh Pirates starting pitcher Joe Musgrove delivers in the first inning of a baseball game against the Cleveland Indians, Tuesday, July 24, 2018, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

nings in the second game of Sunday's doubleheader win against San Diego, made his first relief appearance since 2015.

The game, which was delayed 14 minutes at the start by rain, ended at 1:14 a.m.

The teams combined to use 18 pitchers.

BREWERS 5, NATIONALS 4, 10 INNINGS

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Tyler Saladino's bases-loaded sacrifice fly in the 10th inning lifted Milwaukee.

Lorenzo Cain led off the 10th with single up the middle off Matt Grace (0-1), the sixth Nationals pitcher. He moved to third on Christian Yelich's single to right. After an intentional walk to Jesus Aguilar, Grace struck out Travis Shaw, setting the stage for Saladino, who lifted a fly ball to shallow left-center. Cain scored standing up as left fielder Juan Soto's throw sailed off line.

Dan Jennings (4-3) got the win after entering with two outs in the 10th and picking off pinch-runner Trea Turner, who was benched to start the game for failing to hustle during an at-bat in Monday night's game.

Adam Eaton hit a three-run homer for the Nationals, who also played without Bryce Harper in the starting lineup because of illness.

CARDINALS 4, REDS 2, 11 INNINGS

CINCINNATI (AP) — Austin Gomber took a no-hitter in the seventh inning and Dexter Fowler hit a two-run shot in the 11th, leading St. Louis over Cincinnati.

Mired in a season-long slump, Fowler connected off left-hander Amir Garrett (0-2) for only his second homer while batting right-handed.

Sam Tuivailala (3-3) escaped a two-on threat in the 10th. Bud Norris got his 19th save in 22 chances, one night after he took a loss.

For the second straight night, a Cardinals rookie went deep into the game without allowing a hit. Daniel Pineda threw no-hit ball for seven innings in his major league debut Monday before the Reds rallied against Norris for a 2-1 win featuring Eugenio Suarez's homer.

Gomber waited on the mound during a 7-minute, 30-second delay to

the bottom of the seventh when the ballpark's fire alarm went off. Joey Votto singled with one out for the Reds' first hit, and Suarez followed with his 21st homer, ending the rookie's debut as a starter.

ASTROS 8, ROCKIES 2, 10 INNINGS

DENVER (AP) — Tony Kemp lined a go-ahead single off closer Wade Davis as part of a six-run 10th inning and Houston beat Colorado.

Kemp's one-out hit brought in Josh Reddick, who led off the inning with a single to center that Charlie Blackmon misplayed and had bounce by him. A hustling Reddick wound up on third and set the stage.

Davis (0-3) later surrendered a two-run triple to pinch-hitter Kyle Tucker and a two-run homer to George Springer as the Astros beat the Rockies for the seventh straight time in a streak that dates to 2013. Davis was charged with five runs.

Hector Rondon (2-2) pitched a clean ninth to earn the win, with Brad Peacock finishing the 10th.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, CUBS 1

CHICAGO (AP) — Clay Buchholz pitched effectively into the seventh in his return from the disabled list, Steven Souza Jr. had three hits and an RBI and Arizona won its third straight.

Buchholz (3-1), sidelined since June 25 with an oblique injury, walked two and struck out five in 6 2/3 innings as he lowered his ERA to 2.38 in eight starts with Diamondbacks.

Jason Heyward lined a solo shot off Buchholz in the sixth, but NL Central-leading Chicago lost for the third time in its last four.

Chicago starter Kyle Hendricks (6-9) labored through five innings, allowing three runs and seven hits. The righty struck out eight and escaped jams in the first and third innings.

GIANTS 4, MARINERS 3

SEATTLE (AP) — Steven Duggar scored from second base on a throwing error by Dee Gordon with two outs in the ninth inning and San Francisco beat Seattle.

Pinch-hitter Pablo Sandoval hit a slow roller toward

second base that Gordon charged from the outfield grass. Sandoval was going to beat the play, but Gordon still tried a rushed throw, and Ryon Healy was unable to handle it as it bounced toward the Seattle dugout, allowing Duggar to score.

Duggar had singled with one out against closer Edwin Diaz (0-3) and advanced when Alen Hanson grounded to the mound.

Tony Watson (3-3) worked the eighth inning, and Will Smith pitched the ninth for his fourth save.

MARLINS 9, BRAVES 3

MIAMI (AP) — Wei-Yin Chen pitched six innings and scored the first run of his career to help Miami beat Atlanta.

J.T. Realmuto hit his 13th homer of the season for Miami and drove in four runs. Starlin Castro added a three-run homer, his eighth, and Brian Anderson had three hits and scored three times.

Chen (3-7) allowed three runs and five hits. He doubled to start a five-run fifth for his first extra-base hit in 82 career at-bats, and raced home from third on Realmuto's grounder, barely beating a poor throw by shortstop Dansby Swanson. Julio Teheran (7-7) matched a career high by allowing nine runs, seven earned, in 4 1/3 innings. The Braves committed three errors, including one by Gold Glove center fielder Ender Inciarte that led to two unearned runs.

METS 6, PADRES 3

NEW YORK (AP) — Devin Mesoraco hit an early three-run double and made a heads-up play on defense that helped Zack Wheeler and New York defeat San Diego.

Michael Conforto launched a two-run homer, extending his recent tear at the plate, and Wheeler (4-6) pitched seven crisp innings to win his second consecutive start. Before that, the right-hander went 13 outings without a victory dating to April 29 in San Diego — the longest stretch without a win for a Mets starter in 20 years. □

Davis' 3-run HR in 10th rallies A's past Rangers 13-10

By The Associated Press
ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Khris Davis' three-run homer in the 10th inning capped Oakland's comeback from an eight-run deficit.

Davis went deep against Austin Bibens-Dirkx (2-3) for the Athletics' fourth homer of the night — their third consecutive game with that many. Oakland's 92 homers on the road lead the majors.

The Rangers led 10-2 after the sixth inning. Oakland scored three in the seventh and four more with just one hit in the eighth. Stephen Piscotty's solo homer leading off the ninth tied it against Keone Kela, who blew his first save of the season in 24 chances.

Elvis Andrus hit his first career grand slam and tied his career high with five RBIs for Texas, but his error in the eighth inning on a potential inning-ending double play ball aided Oakland's comeback.

Jeury Familia (2-0) won his second game for the A's in his second appearance for the club since being acquired from the Mets on Saturday, pitching two perfect innings. Blake Treinen retired the side in the 10th for his 25th save in 29 chances.

ORIOLES 7, RED SOX 6
BALTIMORE (AP) — Tim Beckham and Jonathan Schoop homered and drove in three runs each, and Baltimore withstood four long balls by Boston in a victory. It was only the third loss in 18 games for the Red Sox, who have the best record in the major leagues (71-32) and a five-game lead over the New York Yankees in the AL East. Baltimore closer Zach Britton was not used in a save situation and was traded to the Yankees for three prospects after the game. Brad Brach, another reliever the Orioles want to trade, worked the ninth in the rain for his 11th save.

J.D. Martinez homered twice to raise his season total to 31, and Betts and Blake Swihart contributed solo shots for the Red Sox. Coming off the disabled list to make his first big league start since May 31 after recovering from left biceps tendinitis, Boston left-hander Drew Pomeranz (1-4) gave up four runs and six hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Orioles rookie starter Yefry Ramirez (1-3) yielded three long balls but he struck out six in five innings and earned his first major league victory.

YANKEES 4, RAYS 0

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Masahiro Tanaka pitched a three-hitter, and Austin Romine drove in two runs as the replacement for again-injured catcher Gary Sanchez. Tanaka (8-2) retired his first 12 batters before C.J. Cron singled leading off the fifth. He struck out nine and walked one, improving to 6-0 on the road. It was the sixth major league complete game and third shutout for Tanaka, his first complete game since a three-hit shutout at Boston on April 27 last year.

Yonny Chirinos (0-2) allowed three runs and six hits in 6 2/3 innings.

WHITE SOX 4, ANGELS 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Carlos Rodon pitched two-hit ball into the eighth inning, and Yoan Moncada homered in the seventh for Chicago.

Rodon (3-3) took a no-hitter deep into the sixth and finished with eight strikeouts in 7 2/3 innings. He yielded three walks, but worked quickly and smoothly while the White Sox earned back-to-back victories for the second time in July.

The Angels chased Rodon and rallied in the eighth with David Fletcher's RBI double and Mike Trout's two-out, bases-loaded walk from reliever Juan Minaya. Jeanmar Gomez then got Justin Upton on a shallow flyout to



Oakland Athletics Khris Davis celebrates as he crosses home after hitting a three-run home run in the 10th inning of the team's baseball game against the Texas Rangers, Tuesday, July 24, 2018, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

end the rally. Felix Pena (1-1) pitched six innings of four-hit ball for the Angels (50-52), who fell two games below .500 for the first time all season.

ROYALS 5, TIGERS 4

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Burch Smith picked up his first win in nearly five years, and Mike Moustakas and Salvador Perez homered for Kansas City.

Smith (1-1) gave up just one hit — a single by Niko Goodrum to leadoff the fourth — and walked two while striking out six in 6 1/3 innings. He got his second career win, and first since Sept. 15, 2013, for San Diego against Atlanta.

Injuries limited the right-

handers' career to just 5 1/3 innings the next three seasons. The Royals obtained Smith in the Rule 5 draft last December. He was making his third start of the year after beginning the season with 24 relief appearances. Wily Peralta gave up at triple to Nicholas Castellanos and a run-scoring grounder to Jeimer Candelario in the ninth before finishing up for his fifth save.

Whit Merrifield doubled to open the first and scored on Moustakas' 20th homer, into the Royals' bullpen, in the first off Jordan Zimmermann (4-2).

TWINS 5, BLUE JAYS 0

TORONTO (AP) — Jose Berrios and two relievers

combined on a five-hitter, and Eduardo Escobar hit a three-run home run for Minnesota.

Berrios (10-7) allowed four hits, three of them singles, in seven innings. He walked one and struck out nine to win for the second time in three starts. Trevor Hildenberger worked the eighth and Ryan Pressly finished for the Twins, who have won two straight following a three-game losing streak. Blue Jays rookie left-hander Ryan Borucki (0-2) retired the first 10 batters he faced before Eddie Rosario and Brian Dozier hit back-to-back singles in the fourth. Borucki retired the next two batters to end the threat. □

U.S. Swim

Continued from Page 17

Dressel has the most ambitious schedule of anyone, similar to what Phelps did in his heyday. Dressel is entered in eight events, having added the 200 individual medley and 50 and 100 breaststroke races.

Dressel will be looking to build on his seven-gold medal performance at last year's world championships.

There's a lot on the line in the meet that runs through Sunday.

The results decide the U.S. team for the Pan Pacific Championships in Tokyo next month, as well as next year's world championships, World University Games and Pan American Games.

Lochte is one swimmer who won't be part of it.

He was banned for 14 months by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency on Monday for getting an exces-

sive amount of an intravenous infusion of vitamins in May. The 12-time Olympic medalist incriminated himself by posting a photo of the outing to a clinic on his Instagram account, which triggered USADA's investigation. Lochte was set to swim four events this week, and several of his teammates were eager to see him at nationals for the first time since 2016. He was banned for 10 months by USA Swimming after the Rio de Janeiro Olympics for lying about being robbed along with three teammates at a Rio gas station. Lochte's latest punishment was the second doping violation by a national team member in the last few days.

Madisyn Cox was hit with a two-year suspension last week after trimetazidine showed up in an out-of-competition doping test in February. Her suspension ends in March 2020. The



In this June 27, 2017, file photo, Katie Ledecky swims on her way to winning the women's 800-meter freestyle at the U.S. swimming championships in Indianapolis.

substance can be used medically to treat tinnitus, dizziness and chest pain.

Cox, who swam at Texas, was entered in five events this week. She would have been seeded second in the 200 individual medley. At last year's world championships in Hungary, Cox won gold as a member of the 800 freestyle relay and bronze in the 200 IM.

"I was in shock when I saw the news," said Olympic backstroke champion Ryan Murphy, a friend of

Cox. "I'm definitely hurting for her, and it's really sad to see one of our own go down like that."

Five-time Olympic gold medalist Nathan Adrian said the suspensions send a message that the U.S. takes clean sports seriously.

"To be totally honest, I think we're watching the American team be leaders in accountability right now," he said. "I don't think that this punishment would have necessarily been as strict if they were part of certain

Associated Press

other federations."

Although Adrian didn't mention his name, Chinese distance star Sun Yang received a three-month ban after testing positive for trimetazidine in 2014.

Adrian said U.S. swimmers have been warned for years that if they violate the rules, whether accidentally or not, they could face bans.

"You're seeing us kind of stay true to our word," he said. "If that happened in the U.S., we would bring on harsh repercussions. It would be nice if the rest of the world kind of did the same thing, felt that they were not there to protect their athletes, that they were there to govern their sport." Olympic 100 breaststroke champion Lilly King famously called out Yuliya Efimova of Russia at the Rio Games. Efimova served a 16-month doping ban for failing a drug test and returned to be a major rival of King's in the breaststroke events. □

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U.S. women view Tournament of Nations as World Cup tuneup

By DAVE SKRETTA

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) —

Amy Rodriguez and Becky Sauerbrunn arrived in Kansas City this week with their focus somewhat split.

The veterans of the U.S. women's national team understand the importance of the four-team Tournament of Nations, which begins with a match against Japan on Thursday night. And they surely remember losing to Australia in the event last year — the last time the squad was defeated in any competition.

But the national team stalwarts also understand that qualifying for next year's World Cup looms in October. And after their debacle at the Rio Olympics, they want to avoid any embarrassment in that event.

"That's the big thing for us," said Rodriguez, part of two Olympic championship teams and the 2015 squad that beat Japan in the World Cup final. "We're going to take this tournament as a preparation for qualifiers, because that's the big tournament coming up." If that's the case, someone ought to let Jill Ellis know.

The national team coach has spent months considering the various roster permutations available to her, and she came up with a blend of old and new for this week's round-robin tournament. But once Ellis settled on her 23-member team, her focus turned entirely toward winning what's in front of her.

World Cup qualifying? That can wait a couple weeks.

"The priority is performance and winning," Ellis said, pointing out that all four



In this Sept. 15, 2017, file photo, United States defender Becky Sauerbrunn plays the ball against New Zealand during the first half of an international friendly soccer match in Commerce City, Colo.

Associated Press

teams — the U.S., Japan, Australia and Brazil — are ranked in the world's top 10. "We want to come and win this tournament. It gives you a psychologically good feeling to have that. "I think what we take away from these games will help us moving forward," she added, "but I think the players we have coming back, that feeling of getting back on top of the podium — you know, building and gaining confidence as

we march toward qualifiers, that's important." The U.S. will also play a pair of friendlies against Chile before World Cup qualifying. But the reality is the trio of matches in the Tournament of Nations promise to be the toughest matches they have until qualifying, and arguably trumps anybody they'll face in the CONCACAF tournament. The opening match Thursday between Australia and Brazil features two of

the world's top scorers in Aussie standout Samantha Kerr and Brazilian phenom Marta. The Matildas also have a quartet of teenagers playing important roles, including 15-year-old striker Mary Fowler.

Japan, the dominant power in Asia, beat the U.S. at the World Cup final in 2011 before dropping the rematch three years ago. They're led by Saki Kumagai, one of the best defenders in the world.

The Americans counter with a talented if unsettled roster due largely to injuries. Sauerbrunn missed some time to injury earlier this year, while Tobin Heath, Rose Lavelle, Samantha Mewis, Julie Ertz and Morgan Brian likewise made the roster after missing time to injury. Mallory Pugh is out until at least August, though, after the winger sustained a knee injury during the National Women's Soccer League season. Defender Kelley O'Hara remains out with a hamstring injury. "We have to remember we followed winning the World Cup by getting one of the worst results in the Olympics," said Sauerbrunn, part of the team that failed to escape group play at the 2016 Rio Games.

"I think that lit a flame under us," she said, "because we never want to feel like that. The best thing about this team is we've never rested on our laurels. We've always tried to push that bar higher and higher, and that's what we've been doing the last couple years."

Indeed, the Americans have been downright dominant since Australia sprang a 1-0 upset in the opener of the Tournament of Nations last year. They rallied to beat Brazil and routed Japan to finish second in the event, and have gone 15-0-2 in all matches over the ensuing 12 months.

"These players, any time they come in they know the demands. Second place isn't good enough," Ellis said. "That's the expectation and what I think has helped propel this program so much." □

WNBA picks Brunson to sub for ill Ogwumike on All-Star team

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Minnesota Lynx forward Rebekkah Brunson has been picked as an All-Star Game injury replacement for Los Angeles Sparks forward Nneka Ogumike, who's been sidelined by an illness.

The WNBA announced Wednesday that Brunson will join Candace Parker's team, which will face Elena Della Donne's team in the exhibition in Minnesota on Saturday. For the first time, the league had two captains select the

squads, rather than pitting the Eastern Conference against the Western Conference.

This will be the fifth All-Star Game appearance for Brunson, her fourth as a member of the Lynx. □



Minnesota Lynx forward Rebekkah Brunson (32) celebrates with the team following an 83-72 win over the Los Angeles Sparks in a WNBA basketball game Thursday, July 5, 2018, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

Triple Crown winner Justify retired from racing

DEL MAR, Calif. (AP) — Triple Crown winner Justify was retired from racing Wednesday because of fluid in his left front ankle. Trainer Bob Baffert and Justify's owners said caution over the horse's ankle condition made it impossible to tell if he'd be healthy enough to race by the fall. "He is just not responding quick enough for a fall campaign," Baffert said. "We all wanted to see Justify run again, but ultimately it is my responsibility to make sure he is perfect. Without 60-90 days, I can't be definite."

The goal was for Justify to run in a major race this summer, likely the Travers Stakes at Saratoga, and be pointed toward the \$5 million Breeders' Cup Classic on Nov. 3 at Churchill Downs. Instead, he was taken out of training earlier this month because of swelling in his ankle. "The timing is bad for another start in 2018, and therefore, we have to retire him," said Elliott Walden of WinStar Farm, which co-owns



In this June 9, 2018, file photo, Justify (1), with jockey Mike Smith up, crosses the finish line to win the 150th running of the Belmont Stakes horse race and the Triple Crown in Elmont, N.Y.

Associated Press

Justify. "Like (2015 Triple Crown winner) American Pharoah, we can't take the risk of running Justify as a 4-year-old. We all wanted him to finish his career in the Breeders' Cup Classic, but it was not meant to be." Justify won all six career starts, becoming the first horse since Apollo in 1882 to capture the Kentucky Derby after not racing as a 2-year-old. He won the Preakness and Belmont

Stakes to become the 13th Triple Crown winner and second in the past four years after Baffert's American Pharoah.

"There was never a time when I rode him that I felt like I was going to get beat," jockey Mike Smith said. "There was no horse who could run with him without sacrificing themselves, and there was no horse who could come get him." □



This July 14, 2018, photo shows people placing bets on sporting events at the Meadowlands Racetrack in East Rutherford N.J.

Associated Press

Meadowlands initial sports bets total \$3.5M

By **WAYNE PARRY**

Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — The Meadowlands Racetrack in New Jersey took in nearly \$3.5 million in sports bets during its first nine days of accepting such bets.

And most of that came from two weekends that sandwiched a dead period for major professional sports caused by baseball's All-Star break, when there was little to bet on, with basketball and soccer World Cup over, and football and hockey months

away from beginning their seasons.

Meadowlands operator Jeff Gural told The Associated Press it accepted just under \$3.5 million worth of sports bets since it began taking them on July 14.

"We did OK," Gural said Monday. "Our goal the first weekend was to exceed \$1million which we did. The next four days were quiet with nothing to bet on due to the All-Star break."

The FanDuel Sportsbook at the Meadowlands will be expanded. □

Watson says St Andrews is the place to be this week



In this Wednesday, April 4, 2018 file photo, Tom Watson smiles on the range during a practice round for the Masters golf tournament in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

ST ANDREWS, Scotland (AP) — Never before in the 31-year history of the Senior British Open has the event attracted as much interest from would-be competitors as this week's edition at St

Andrews. As many as 636 over-50s entered in the hope of teeing-up on golf's most famous and sacred ground. Only 45 were exempt into the 144-strong line-up and

591 had to go through pre-qualifying.

"Ask any golfer what course first comes to mind and it is St Andrews," five-time British Open champion Tom Watson said.

"It is recognized around the world as a very special place to be," added the American veteran, who also won the senior version in 2003 and 2007.

Watson, who bade an emotional farewell to the British Open at St Andrews in 2015, is one of seven former "champion golfers of the year" who have made their way to Scotland for the only senior major that is held outside the United States. Ten members of the World Golf Hall of Fame are in attendance, as are 10 former Ryder Cup captains. Major champions

are well represented; 20 from the regular tour and three from the Champions circuit. It is a field packed with quality.

Eighteen months on from his last start in a regular European Tour event, three-times British Open winner Nick Faldo is making a rare appearance.

"I'm looking forward to hopefully being half-decent on the course," said the 61-year-old Englishman, six times a major champion. "The great thing about this game is it doesn't let go. It tortures you. It keeps saying, 'come on, you can go and practice.'" "I still think I can play. I always want to go play so I'd like to think I can tee it up and actually enjoy myself."

Colin Montgomerie was runner-up behind Tiger

Woods in the 2005 British Open at St Andrews.

"I know my way around this place," the 55-year-old Scot said. "I also know where not to go. So I can come here with some sort of confidence about where I need to put the golf ball. It's all a matter of angles and missing the bunkers."

"You need to have that sort of knowledge around here. But it doesn't come easy. It took me a long time to find out where and where not to go."

Another player needing little instruction in that department this week is defending champion Paul Broadhurst of England, who shot a then-course record nine-under par 63 in the third round of the British Open in 1990. □

Froome cracks in the Pyrenees as Thomas solidifies Tour lead

By ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

SAINT-LARY-SOULAN, France (AP) — His tongue dangling from his mouth, his pedal stroke strained, Chris Froome's hopes of a record-tying fifth Tour de France title slowly drifted away.

Up amid the thin and misty air of the Col du Portet — rated the second toughest climb in Tour history — Froome cracked on the feared 17th stage through the Pyrenees on Wednesday, solidifying Sky teammate Geraint Thomas's hold on the yellow jersey.

"Froomey said on the radio @ maybe 5K or 4K to go that he wasn't feeling super," Thomas said after increasing his lead to nearly two minutes over Tom Dumoulin. "That gave me confidence because I knew if Froomey suffered, everyone suffered."

"I didn't want him to have a bad day like he did but it just gave me confidence knowing someone of Froomey's stature was struggling, and I just knew I would be able to respond to the attacks."

Froome finished eighth, 1 minute, 35 seconds behind stage winner Nairo Quintana, and dropped from

second to third overall, a distant 2:31 seconds adrift of Thomas.

The British rider's day then went from bad to worse as he crashed when police mistook him for a fan on the way down the mountain, with his bodyguard also on a bike.

Froome had put a black raincoat over his racing uniform to keep warm and when police ordered him to stop, he lost control.

Team Sky said the rider was not injured in the incident, which came a day after police used tear gas to disperse a farmers' protest that had blocked the road with bales of hay.

Froome was among a large group of riders whose eyes needed treatment due to the tear gas.

He has been a repeated target of fans after he was cleared of doping five days before the race began. The four-time champion had been racing under the cloud of a potential ban for using twice the permitted level of salbutamol during his victory at the Spanish Vuelta in September.

Froome said he has been repeatedly spat at since the race started, and that spectators have punched him and tried to make him

fall off his bike.

He is attempting to match the Tour record of five victories shared by Jacques Anquetil, Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain, but appeared to concede defeat.

"We've just got to look after (Thomas) now," Froome said. "I've won the last three Grand Tours and G has ridden an absolutely faultless race this year, so he fully deserves to be in the yellow jersey, and fingers crossed he finishes it off and gets the job done in Paris."

The stage was a strong signal that Froome has reached his limit after winning the Tour and Vuelta last year, and the Giro d'Italia in May.

"What you've got with Chris is he'll empty the tank," Team Sky principal Dave Brailsford said. "He deserves a lot of credit having gone to the Giro ... He's a great, great champion. He's not out of it necessarily ... If anybody can bounce back it's Chris Froome — I wouldn't rule him out."

After a less arduous Stage 18 on Thursday, there is another mountainous leg in the Pyrenees on Friday. There's an individual time trial on Saturday before the



Stage winner Colombia's Nairo Quintana climbs towards the finish line to win the seventeenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 65 kilometers (40.4 miles) with start in Bagnères-de-Luchon and finish in Saint-Lary-Soulan, Col du Portet pass, France, Wednesday July 25, 2018.

Associated Press

three-week race ends Sunday in Paris.

Colombian rider Quintana, a three-time podium finisher in the Tour, finished 28 seconds ahead of Irish rider Dan Martin, while Thomas crossed third in the stage, 47 seconds back.

Dumoulin moved up to second, 1:59 behind Thomas, the Welsh rider who is seeking his first Grand Tour victory.

"Thomas has been the strongest, and that's the situation now," Dumoulin said. "For me, so far, it has

not been possible to gain time on him."

Froome was first put in difficulty when fourth-placed Primož Roglič attacked with 2.5 kilometers to go, and then was dropped for good when Dumoulin accelerated at the 2K banner.

While Thomas followed Dumoulin, Froome quickly lost ground and had to be escorted up the rest of the way by Colombian teammate Egan Bernal, who kept turning around to check on his team leader.



Serena Williams of the United States is dejected after losing a point to Germany's Angelique Kerber during their women's singles final match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, in London, Saturday July 14, 2018.

By The Associated Press

Serena Williams has complained on social media that it's "test Serena" time again as she once more hit out at the frequency with which she is selected for anti-doping tests.

The 23-time Grand Slam

champion took to Twitter on Tuesday night after she received another visit from a tester. Williams tweeted: "And it's that time of the day to get 'randomly' drug tested and only test Serena. Out of all the players it's been proven I'm the one

Serena Williams hits out again at testing 'discrimination'

getting tested the most. Discrimination? I think so. At least I'll be keeping the sport clean."

In a second message, the 36-year-old American added: "But I'm ready to do whatever it takes to have a clean sport so bring it on. I'm excited."

Williams has complained before at being drug-tested more than other American tennis players this year. "Just test everyone equally," Williams said on the eve of this year's Wimbledon, where she lost to Angelique Kerber in the final.

A report by Deadspin said Williams had been

checked five times in 2018 by June, more than other U.S. women and men in the sport. Williams returned to competition this season after missing more than a year as a result of pregnancy. She gave birth to a daughter last September. As part of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency's "intelligent" out-of-competition testing program, it is not unusual for top athletes — those

who have had sustained success in their sport — to be tested more often than others.

Following her loss to Kerber, Williams said she had proven to herself that she could still compete to win Grand Slams. Her next Grand Slam title would tie her with Margaret Court for the most with 24. She already has the most major trophies in the professional era. □

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For latest in orderliness, prisons look to computer tablets

By PAT EATON-ROBB

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) —

Allowing inmates to stare at computer tablet screens for hours each day may be just the ticket for creating calm, orderly cellblocks, prison officials say.

But tablets, growing in popularity in prisons nationwide, also can help inmates advance their education, connect with family and prepare them for life in the technology-saturated outside world, officials say. In Connecticut, which plans to introduce tablets in its prisons this summer, Correction Commissioner Scott Semple said officials are learning from other states that cellblocks become much quieter after tablets are introduced.

"Just like when you walk in the mall, everyone is looking down at their phone," he said.

The devices, which are transparent so contraband can't be hidden in them, won't be hooked to the internet, but to an internal system. They will be pre-loaded with educational materials, including books, educational videos and games.

Inmates will also be able to use them — for a price — to send emails and make monitored phone calls to those on their approved communications lists. They will also be able to buy music, video games and other items to load onto the machines from kiosks in the prisons.

The company that provides the tablets will make a profit selling those materials, allowing the state to get the machines at no cost.

"We're trying to increase engagement opportunities for a population, because



New Hampshire Department of Corrections Officer Glen Dinning puts a tablet back into a charging cabinet at the Corrections Transitional Work Center, a low risk security section at the New Hampshire State Prison for Men, in Concord, N.H., Monday, July 23, 2018.

Associated Press

sometimes there is down time in prisons," Semple said. "We're also trying to keep them exposed to technology, because we hear from people that when they go back into society, the technology is so different that they struggle." Connecticut got the idea from similar programs in Georgia and Colorado, Semple said.

Miramar, Florida-based JPay, one of the major tablet providers to prisons, said it has put them in 13 states so far. Prison officials estimate tablets are used in more than 10 percent of correctional facilities nationwide.

In January, New York announced plans to provide tablets to 51,000 inmates, and in April, New Hampshire signed a five-year contract with Reston, Virginia-based Global Tel-Link to provide tablets there.

Anthony Plant, 27, of Lancaster, New Hampshire, served 21 months for selling

drugs. Tablets, he said, kept him in touch with relatives and eliminated conflicts among inmates vying for their once-a-day use of the phone.

"Talking with my family gave me a sense of keeping my head straight and motivated me to keep doing what I'm doing," he said.

Connecticut, which has about 13,500 inmates, expects to finalize its contract with a provider this summer. The programs do have critics.

Questions have been raised about whether the tablets could lead prisons to decrease in-person visitation and whether there is enough regulation of private providers to prevent price gouging.

"If we believe that people in prison would benefit from resources that enrich their lives and allow them to contact their loved ones more, we shouldn't make those benefits contingent on who can pay, espe-

cially since we're talking about people who are disproportionately very poor," said Wanda Bertram, with the Prison Policy Initiative, a think tank.

And Connecticut state Sen. John Kissel, R-Enfield, a co-chair of the Judiciary Committee, said he doesn't understand why the state would give priority to criminals over, say, public school students.

"These folks have committed really bad crimes that have consequences and victims," he said. "It bothers me as to what message we're sending."

Plant said that he understands that criticism, but that the tablets, especially their educational content, are an important rehabilitation tool.

"If you don't want things like this, then change the name from the Department of Corrections to the Department of Holding," he said. "Because that's all you are doing."

Two lawsuits filed by South Dakota inmates allege tablets are prone to malfunctions and don't provide promised access to legal databases, making them a poor alternative to the law libraries they replaced.

The Colorado Department of Corrections said has had to deal with security issues, such as improper sharing of devices and inmates removing a metal strip from an early model to make weapons, said spokesman Mark Fairbairn.

But, he said, overall it has been positive, and game and music subscriptions have brought in more than \$53,000 to the department's commissary service. In Connecticut, the plan is to begin handing out the tablets in the highest-security prisons. Because they are a privilege, Semple said, they can be an incentive for inmates to behave. Pennsylvania introduced tablets in 2016. Inmates can buy them from Global Tel-Link for just under \$150. About 16,000, or a third of the state's inmate population, have done so.

The Pennsylvania corrections department is still collecting data on violence or other conflicts, said Shirley Moore Smeal, the department's executive deputy secretary. But prison superintendents tell them the impact has been positive, she said. "It does lead to a better environment for the population," she said. "It gives them something to look forward to. It's something that's constructive for them, and that means it's constructive for the institution itself." The state, she said, is also looking into providing some tablets that can be loaned to prisoners who cannot afford them. □

Netflix to open in Spain its first European production hub

MADRID (AP) — Netflix says it's establishing in Spain its first content production hub on European soil as the online video entertainment platform tries to expand in different languages.

A company statement Tuesday says the new production center in the outskirts of Madrid will initially occupy close to a quarter of the 22,000 square-meter

production hub currently under construction by Grupo Secuoya, a leading Spanish media company. It says the studios are expected to be operational in September and will help

Netflix's "growing slate of Spanish-language original content," including new and existing titles, co-produced or undertaken by Netflix alone.

Netflix is about to release

the third season of Cable Girls, produced entirely in Spain, and has recently signed a deal with the creators of Money Heist, its most watched non-English language show. □

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Newspapers endure more cuts, hope for brighter future online

By DAMIAN J. TROISE and DEE-ANN DURBIN, AP Business Writers

U.S. newspapers are battered and broken, and this week's layoffs at the New York Daily News serve as the latest blow. But while local newsgathering has taken a hit, some observers think it's poised for a digital comeback.

Media company Tronc Inc. cut half of the Daily News' newsroom staff Monday, including the paper's editor in chief. The remaining staff, the company said, will focus on breaking news involving "crime, civil justice and public responsibility." The Pulitzer Prize-winning tabloid has been a fixture in New York for the last century. Jere Hester, news director at the City University of New York Graduate School of Journalism and a former staffer at the Daily News, bemoaned the gutting of a watchdog in the nation's largest city.

"Any time we lose a reporter covering a neighborhood or City Hall, the city is greatly diminished for it. Bottom line is, when you don't have reporters out there doing grunt work in the street, stories get lost," Hester said.

The anguish in the world's media capital exemplifies what's been happening in the rest of the country for years. Estimated U.S. daily newspaper circulation, print and digital combined, fell 11 percent to 31 million in 2017, according to the Pew Research Center.

As recently as 2000, weekday subscriptions totaled 55.8 million. In just the last three years, employment in newsrooms has fallen 15 percent.

"We're seeing very steady pressure, wave after wave of layoffs, which means less journalism," said Rick Ed-



Copies of the New York Daily News are for sale at a news stand in New York, Monday, July 23, 2018, after the paper told employees that the newspaper is reducing its editorial staff by 50 percent.

monds, a media business analyst at Poynter Institute. "We're starting to have a lot of places that are described as news deserts." Concern about the layoffs extended beyond the media business to people who feared for a future with fewer facts. New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo urged Tronc to reconsider the cuts, saying they were made without notifying the state or asking for assistance.

"I understand that large corporations often only see profit and dividends as a bottom line. But in New York, we also calculate loss of an important institution, loss of jobs and the impact on the families affected." The trend began more than a decade ago, when car dealerships, real estate companies and other businesses moved online and stopped paying newspapers for classified ads.

Readers increasingly migrated to the internet and mobile apps and spent more hours on social media such as Facebook.

Over time, newspapers lost two-thirds of their revenue, and they slashed jobs as a result, said Tim Franklin, the senior associate dean of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. The Los Angeles Times once had more than 1,200 journalists and more than 25 foreign bureaus. Now it employs about 400 journalists with bureaus in Sacramento, Washington and a handful of foreign and national outposts. Tronc sold the newspaper to Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong earlier this year.

The Denver Post has been laying off staff for more than a decade, with a 30 percent reduction coming in April from current owner Digital First Media. Its one-time rival, the Rocky Moun-

tain News, folded in 2009. More recently, newspapers are reeling from tariffs on Canadian newsprint put in place in March by President Donald Trump's administration. Paul Tash, chairman and CEO of Florida's largest newspaper, the Tampa Bay Times, wrote in a recent editorial that the tariffs would add \$3.5 million per year to the paper's newsprint expenses if they are made permanent. Already, the paper has laid off 50 people this year, Tash

wrote.

Where have all those journalists gone? In some cases, they are starting up online newspapers of their own in an effort to keep local newsgathering alive and flourishing.

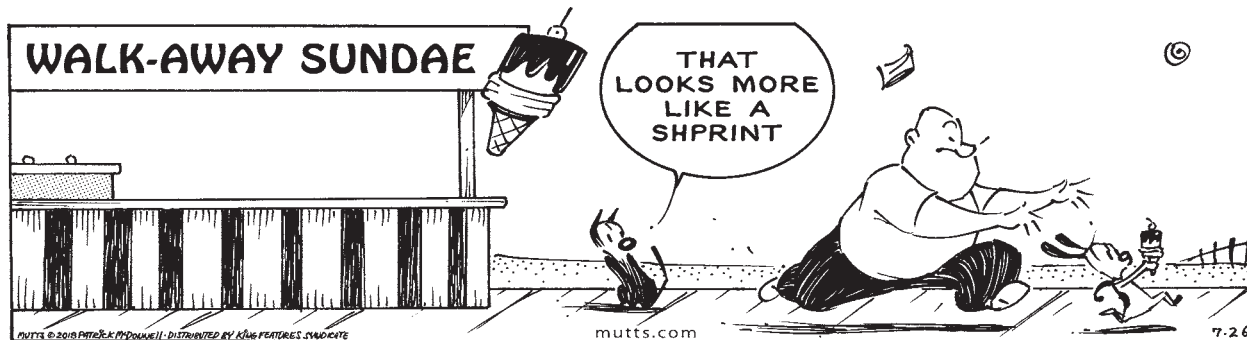
Take Berkeleyside, an online newspaper in Berkeley, California, that began in 2009, when the San Jose Mercury News stopped covering the city. So far this year, Berkeleyside says it has averaged 900,000 pageviews and 270,000 unique visitors each month. In Charlottesville, Virginia, there's an online newspaper devoted to covering education, land use and planning. In a rare bit of cooperation, Charlottesville's daily newspaper, The Daily Progress, uses some of those online stories, said Matt DiRienzo, who runs an organization called the Local Independent Online News Publishers.

DiRienzo said his group represents 225 news outlets in 45 states and Canada. Membership has doubled in the last two years, he said. He predicts a "massive decentralization" of local journalism over the coming years. "As people realize how important the news is to democratic institutions and local businesses, these kinds of things are going to bubble up," he said. "An algorithm isn't going to replace local journalism." □

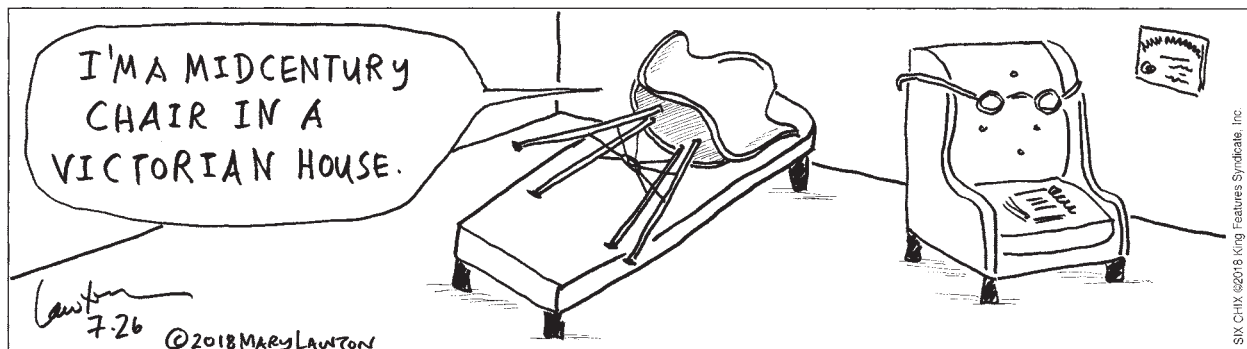


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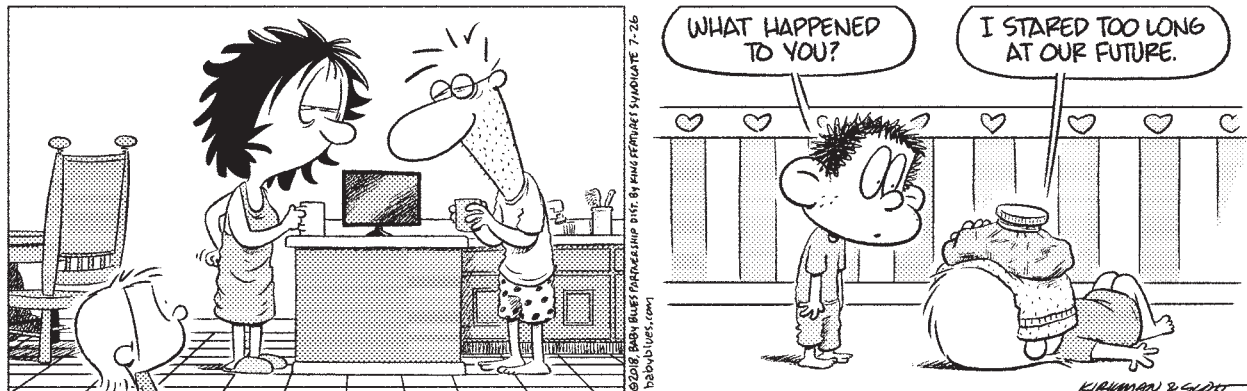
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		7						1
2			6					8
6				5		7		3
	9			3				5
		8				4		
5			7				2	
4	1		8					2
7				3				4
8						9		

Difficulty Level ★★★

7/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	5	7	3	6	9	4	1	2
3	4	2	1	8	5	9	6	7
9	6	1	7	4	2	8	3	5
1	7	9	8	2	3	5	4	6
6	8	3	5	9	4	7	2	1
5	2	4	6	1	7	3	9	8
7	9	8	2	3	1	6	5	4
2	3	5	4	7	6	1	8	9
4	1	6	9	5	8	2	7	3

ACROSS

- Snoop
- Burn with liquid
- Store away
- Deadly reptiles
- Comedian
- Kovacs
- Sheltered bay
- Store event
- Sri
- Had regrets
- Very sad
- Crematory shelf supplies
- Symptoms of Tourette's
- Tiny fellow
- Receive willingly
- Authentic
- Roles
- Copenhagen natives
- Is able to
- Primates
- Summoned with a beeper
- Elevator
- Ruby or scarlet
- Freeway divisions
- Narrow boat
- fruits; mango, papaya, etc.
- Craving for food
- Fragrant neckwear
- 20th-century U.S. president
- Crumbly cheese
- Above reproach
- Make money
- Two cents' worth
- Engrossed
- Yew or yucca
- Keep a fire going
- Unightly skin mark
- Antlered animals
- Ore seeker
- Animal enclosure

DOWN

- Educational TV network
- Highway

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13			14		15						16		
17					18						19		
	20			21							22		
			23					24	25				
26	27	28				29	30				31	32	33
34					35						36		
37					38						39		
40				41						42			
43			44					45					
								46			47		
48	49	50				51	52	53				54	55
56						57					58		59
60						61					62		
63						64					65		

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/26/18

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

TRY	ASTHE	BLAB
THEE	SPIEL	RAGE
OATS	SACRIFICES	
WWI	CURSE	LEEDS
	ROOMS	DEF
STEPPE	COASTS	
NAMED	ORALS	HIP
OXEN	VAULT	DONE
WIN	GORES	ROUGE
	STARTS	FINGER
	TAE	TOOTH
SLOOP	CHART	TOA
NOMDE	PLUME	UFOS
AVID	RULES	SUPS
GETS	YEAST	ALS

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7/26/18

- Commit perjury
- Ringlet
- LAX arrivals
- More torrid
- Unusual stroke of luck
- Celebration
- British noble
- Long journey
- Prefix for freeze or histamine
- "Once... a time..."
- Fluid-filled pouches
- Quarrel
- Give it a go

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3rd Floor/Harbor View

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Water is buried beneath Martian landscape, study says

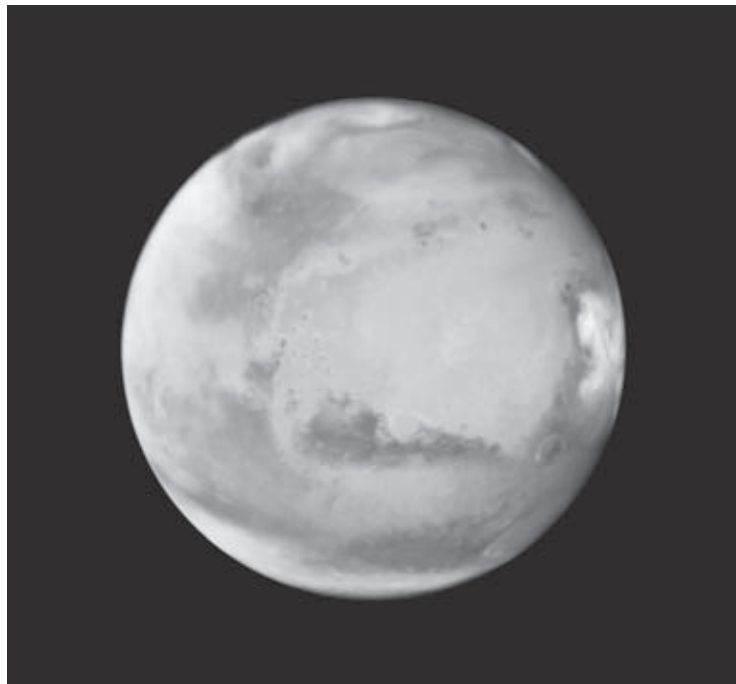
By EMILIANO RODRIGUEZ
MEGA

NEW YORK (AP) — A huge lake of salty water appears to be buried deep in Mars, raising the possibility of finding life on the red planet, scientists reported Wednesday.

The discovery, based on observations by a European spacecraft, generated excitement from experts. Water is essential to life as we know it, and scientists have long sought to prove that the liquid is present on Mars.

"If these researchers are right, this is the first time we've found evidence of a large water body on Mars," said Cassie Stuurman, a geophysicist at the University of Texas who found signs of an enormous Martian ice deposit in 2016.

Scott Hubbard, a professor of astronautics at Stanford University who served as NASA's first Mars program



This May 12, 2016 image provided by NASA shows the planet Mars. A study published Wednesday, July 25, 2018 in the journal Science suggests a huge lake of salty water appears to be buried deep in Mars, raising the possibility of finding life on the red planet.

Associated Press

director in 2000, called it "tremendously exciting." "Our mantra back then was 'follow the water.' That was

the one phrase that captured everything," Hubbard said. "So this discovery, if it stands, is just thrilling be-

cause it's the culmination of that philosophy."

The study, published in the journal Science, does not determine how deep the reservoir actually is. This means that scientists can't specify whether it's an underground pool, an aquifer-like body, or just a layer of sludge.

To find the water, Italian researchers analyzed radar signals collected over three years by the European Space Agency's Mars Express spacecraft. Their results suggest that a 12-mile-wide (20 kilometers) reservoir lies below ice about a mile (1.5 kilometers) thick in an area close to the planet's south pole.

They spent at least two years examining the data to make sure they'd detected water, not ice or another substance.

"I really have no other explanation," said astrophysicist Roberto Orosei of Italy's

National Institute of Astrophysics in Bologna and lead author of the study.

Mars is very cold, but the water might have been kept from freezing by dissolved salts. It's the same as when you put salt on a road, said Kirsten Siebach, a planetary geologist at Rice University who wasn't part of the study.

"This water would be extremely cold, right at the point where it's about to freeze. And it would be salty. Those are not ideal conditions for life to form," Siebach said.

Still, she said, there are microbes on Earth that have been able to adapt to environments like that.

Orosei said, "It's tempting to think that this is the first candidate place where life could persist" on Mars.

He suspects Mars may contain other hidden bodies of water, waiting to be discovered. □

Bad dogs die young, many from euthanasia, British study says



In this Sept. 28, 2011 file photo, a dog casts a shadow in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press
Bad dogs tend to die young, according to a British study that says aggression, excessive barking and disobedience are among behaviors that can doom

canine pets to an early demise.

One in three deaths in U.K. dogs younger than 3 years old was from "undesirable" behaviors, a disproportionately high number, the

study found. Euthanasia was the most common cause of those deaths — 75 percent overall. Traffic accidents involving disobedient dogs were another common cause.

The study involved data on 264,000 U.K. dogs, and the results underscore the importance of training dogs and educating owners, the researchers said. They said the large number of misbehaving dogs that are euthanized also highlights a need for improved behavioral education for veterinarians so they can better assist pet owners.

The study was published Tuesday in the British publication Animal Welfare.

Making sure owners are aware of traits in breeds

they select is important, as is socialization for young dogs, "to ensure that the lives of dogs and their owners are fulfilling for all parties involved," said study supervisor Dan O'Neill, a senior lecturer at the Royal Veterinary College.

Socialization is most effective when puppies are 4 to 12 weeks old, according to Partnership for Animal Welfare, a U.S. nonprofit animal rescue and adoption group. It involves introducing them to new experiences, including people, places, objects and other animals to help teach them how to respond "appropriately and without fear," the group's website says.

The researchers analyzed 2009 to 2014 records from

127 U.K. veterinary clinics to determine what portion of early deaths were linked with undesirable behavior. The study didn't report other causes but previous research by the same group found that less common causes included gastrointestinal and neurological diseases.

Males, mixed-breed dogs, and small dogs weighing less than 22 pounds (10 kilograms) were more prone to early deaths from misbehavior than females, larger dogs and purebreds.

Compared with Labrador retrievers, a common breed in the U.K. and the United States that is often well-tempered, certain breeds faced higher risks of behavior-related deaths including cocker spaniels and Staffordshire bull terriers, similar to American pit bulls.

"Greater awareness of the scale of this issue can be the first step toward reducing the problems and making the lives of thousands of our young dogs happier," O'Neill said. □

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Pop star Demi Lovato awake and recovering with family

By MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A representative for Demi Lovato says she is awake and recovering with her family after the pop singer was reportedly hospitalized Tuesday for an overdose.

"Demi is awake and with her family who want to express thanks to everyone for the love, prayers and support," Lovato's representative said in a statement Tuesday evening. "Some of the information being reported is incorrect and they respectfully ask for privacy and not speculation as her health and recovery is the most important thing right now."

The statement did not provide any details on what led to the singer's hospitalization.

Emergency officials confirmed they transported a 25-year-old woman who lives on Demi Lovato's block to the hospital after receiving a call at 11:22 a.m. Tuesday.

TMZ was the first to report that Lovato had been hospitalized for a drug overdose, based on its sources, and other outlets including People magazine also reported her hospitalization based on sources.

Lovato indicated in a new song released last month that she relapsed after six years of sobriety. On the song "Sober," she sings the lyrics: "Momma, I'm so sorry I'm not sober anymore/And daddy please forgive me for the drinks spilled on the floor."

In her YouTube documentary released last year called "Demi Lovato, Simply Complicated," she openly discusses her cocaine use and battles with alcohol. Fox said it would pull its episode of "Beat Shazam" featuring Lovato, which was to air Tuesday night.

"We have decided to replace the episode of Beat Shazam with another all-new episode. Our thoughts go out to Demi and her family," the network said.

Lovato was scheduled to perform in Atlantic City on Thursday.



In this June 17, 2016 file photo, singer Demi Lovato performs on ABC's "Good Morning America" 2016 Summer Concert Series in New York.

Associated Press

She went on to become a multi-platinum pop star, launching Top 10 hits like "Sorry Not Sorry," "Skyscraper," "Heart Attack." Her 2015 album, "Confident," earned her a Grammy nomination for best pop vocal album. □



News crews gathered outside Lovato's home in the Hollywood Hills, where vehicles were seen entering and leaving Tuesday afternoon. Their occupants did not stop to speak to reporters.

The hashtag #PrayForDemi trended on Twitter and several celebrities posted supportive words Tuesday, including Missy Elliott, Ariana Grande, Brad Paisley, Keshia, Bebe Rexha, Meghan Trainor, Maren Morris, Kehlani and British electronic group Clean Bandit, whose current single "Solo" features Lovato.

Ellen DeGeneres tweeted that "it breaks my heart that she is going through this. She is a light in this world, and I am sending my love to her and her family."

The singer-actress, who entered rehab in 2010, struggled with an eating disorder, self-mutilation and other issues. She has spoken out about her battles with drugs and alcohol over the years, and she's become a role model for young women and men who have faced their own issues.

Lovato, who was a child actress on the TV series "Barney & Friends," broke on the scene as a teen on the Disney Channel film "Camp Rock" and the network series "Sonny with a Chance."

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Grammy-winning rockers Halestorm don't care about the haters

By KRISTIN M. HALL

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

When four-piece hard rock band Halestorm went back into the studio to work on their fourth album, they had already thrown out a bunch of songs they felt sounded too much like songs they had recorded before.

Led by frontwoman Lzzy Hale, the group has been dealing with critics for years saying they leaned too pop and didn't shred hard enough. But the band wasn't trying to please everyone, because they just wanted to keep evolving.

"We're on our fourth record on a major label and we won a Grammy Award, and there's this misconception that you've had the success and therefore it gets easier," said 34-year-old Hale. "It really doesn't because you've put so much out in the world and you're like, 'OK, what's next?'"

Their new album "Vicious," out Friday, came out of a lot of experimentation in a Nashville, Tennessee studio working with acclaimed rock producer Nick Rasku-



In this July 20, 2018, photo, members of Halestorm, pose in Nashville, Tenn., to promote their new record, "Vicious," out on July 27.

Associated Press

linecz, who has worked with bands like Foo Fighters and Alice in Chains. Hale and her brother Arejay Hale, Joe Hottinger and Josh Smith have been perform-

ing together for more than 15 years and Raskulinecz wanted to capture that live sound as much as possible. The Pennsylvania-based band will also start the second leg of a tour with all female-fronted rock bands — including In This Moment and New Year's Day — on Friday in Kansas City, with additional stops in Albany, Seattle and San Francisco. A third leg of the tour was just added starting in November.

Lzzy Hale and Hottinger, who plays guitar, talked with The Associated Press about dealing with critics, finding new inspiration and touring with other female rockers. Answers have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: What was it like in the studio this time?

Hottinger: We were really like, "How do we push this band forward? How do we do something interesting that's hard rock these days?" Because it seems like it's really hard to find good rock music and something that is pushing the boundaries a little bit. And (Nick) is like, "Well, let's just start with the four of you

in a room and who's got a riff? We'll start there."

Hale: He was a Halestorm fan before we ever started working together. So when we would be excited, like this is really cool, he would say, "No, no, no. I've seen what you can do live. I know you can sing harder, I know you can play faster, I know your brother can be crazier. Let's push everything that makes you guys who you are. Let's push it forward."

AP: Is there a democratic process to making decisions as a band?

Hale: It's interesting because we've been a four-piece for over 15 years now and it's interesting how you settle into your roles. Everybody has a tremendous amount of respect to what everybody brings to the table. And not everybody has to be interested in the same thing.

AP: Do you pay attention to critics and reviews of your albums?

Hale: We pay attention to critics and reviews, but we've never paid any mind to what people think of us. I think that comes with literally growing up on the stage. Since we were 13

we were performing.

Hottinger: Like the first record came out and nobody really cared and the only thing you'd see about us was positive things 'cause people would take the time because they were excited.

Hale: We always said once people started hating on us, then we've got it.

Hottinger: You can't make everyone happy and we're not going to. I think it's great actually when you get some of the good, creative criticism.

Hale: We've always been our biggest critics and like any obstacle that is in front of us or judgment that's in front of us, we usually put it there.

AP: That feels like a theme throughout the album, especially on songs like "Uncomfortable," of being unapologetic.

Hale: I was trying to figure out how to be OK with not being the person that makes everybody happy. And writing an album and moving this band forward specifically for myself and my bandmates and not for anybody else. So it came through very honestly in the lyrics.

AP: By touring with other female-fronted rock bands, did you hope to change perceptions about what rock fans will pay to see?

Hale: Halfway through this tour we realized the audience is no longer 60/40 male to female, which is usually kinda what happens at a rock show. It's either 50/50 or it's completely turned on its head. So we're seeing this kind of sea of girls that are like us. We're kind of proving on this tour that this heavy music is genderless.

Hottinger: You look at the crowd and there's these girls that are like embracing these traditionally masculine moments, like heavy moments or these screams, and these girls are loving it.

And you realize these are just rock 'n' roll moments and there's no gender.

Hale: I think the goal with this next leg is to really show these girls that this is a place for you. □

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SAT-SUN 2:55 | 6:00 | 9:05

2D MON-THURS 4:45 | 7:50
FRIDAY 4:45 | 7:50 | 10:55
SATURDAY 1:40 | 4:45 | 7:50 | 10:55
SUN & HOL 1:40 | 4:45 | 7:50

NEW THIS WEEK!
THE INCREDIBLES [PG]

MON-THURS 4:40 | 6:45 | 8:50
FRIDAY 4:40 | 6:45 | 8:50 | 10:55
SATURDAY 2:35 | 4:40 | 6:45 | 8:50 | 10:55
SUN & HOL 2:35 | 4:40 | 6:45 | 8:50

DAVEED DIGGS | RAFAEL CASAL
BLINDSPOTTING [R]

MON-THURS & SUN 7:20 | 9:30
FRI-SAT 7:20 | 9:30 | 11:40

DENZEL WASHINGTON | PEDRO PASCAL
THE EQUALIZER [R]

MON-THURS & SUN 3:55 | 6:35 | 9:15
FRI-SAT 3:55 | 6:35 | 9:15 | 10:50

AMANDA SEYFRIED | MERYL STREEP
MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN [PG-13]

MON-THURS 4:10 | 6:40 | 9:10
FRIDAY 4:10 | 6:40 | 9:10 | 11:40
SATURDAY 1:40 | 4:10 | 6:40 | 9:10 | 11:40
SUN & HOL 1:40 | 4:10 | 6:40 | 9:10

DWAYNE JOHNSON | NEVE CAMPBELL
SKYSCRAPER [PG-13]

MON-THURS 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20
FRIDAY 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
SAT 2:35 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
SUN & HOL 2:35 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20

ADAM SANDLER | SELENA GOMEZ
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA [PG]

MON-FRI 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40
SAT & SUN 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40

PAUL RUDD | EVANGELINE LILLY
THE ANTHEM [PG-13]

MON-FRI 4:45
SAT & SUN 2:10 | 4:45

STARTING AUGUST 2: DISNEY CHRISTOPHER ROBIN, THE DARKEST MINDS, SEARCHING, THE SPY WHO DUMPED ME

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When mom is Diana Rigg, you 'go for it,' says her daughter

By LYNN ELBER

LOS ANGELES (AP) — For actress Rachael Stirling, dispensing advice isn't a family tradition.

Stirling, the daughter of Diana Rigg of "Game of Thrones" and "The Avengers" fame, says the only career counsel her mom gave was "'Go for it.' She was supportive and kind, and it is a joy to have the commonality of our work."

Stirling, who's reprising a character she played on PBS' "The Bletchley Circle" in a new Britbox streaming series, is now a mom herself. She and her musician-husband, Guy Garvey, welcomed son Jack in April 2017.

When the boy is heard vocalizing unhappily in the background during a phone interview, Stirling offers context.

"He's being taken by his dad to have a bath, and he doth protest. ... There are so many dramas in the course of a day of a little person, it's a great Greek tragedy," she said. "It's so much a little person to go



This image released by BritBox shows, Rachael Stirling, Chanelle Peloso, Julie Graham and Crystal Balint from the series "The Bletchley Circle: San Francisco."

Associated Press

through."

Do such poetic observations suggest a parenting book ahead?

"I'm not lecturing anyone about anything anytime soon," she replied.

Stirling filmed "The Bletchley Circle: San Francisco" in Vancouver, Canada, which she delights in calling "San Vancouver." The original series followed four

women who, after working as World War II codebreakers at England's Bletchley Park compound, put their undervalued skills to work solving crimes.

In the new season, Stirling's Millie and Julie Graham's Jean head to San Francisco to investigate a friend's murder. Joining them are Iris and Hailey (newcomers Crystal Balint and Chanelle

Peloso), American codebreakers whose gifts also are being slighted post-war.

There are four episodes, each two parts, in the first original series for BritBox, a subscription service from England's BBC Studios and ITV.

Stirling said she was delighted to revisit the 2012-14 "Bletchley Circle" in a new

setting with more diverse characters, and to play what she and her cast-mates took to calling "superheroes with handbags." Her only concern was time away from Jack, but that was solved by bringing both baby and husband with her to Vancouver. Garvey was willing to temporarily shelve his music, Stirling said, but the solo artist and frontman for the band Elbow found a creative outlet in a popular neighborhood.

"Guy had a studio in Gas-town which he went to every day to write," she said, producing some "unbelievably brilliant" work. "We had a brilliant and rewarding time." Stirling was planning another trip abroad, to New York to celebrate Rigg's 80th birthday this month and to see her on-stage in the Lincoln Center revival of "My Fair Lady," for which she received a Tony nomination. Rigg also is a nominee for this September's Emmy Awards, her fourth nod for her role as Lady Olenna Tyrell in "Game of Thrones." □

Kennedy Center honors for Cher, Reba McEntire, 'Hamilton'

By ASHRAF KHALIL

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cher, composer Phillip Glass, country music star Reba McEntire and jazz legend Wayne Shorter will be honored for lifetime achievements in the arts at this year's Kennedy Center Honors.

The national arts center also announced Wednesday a special award for the genre-bending musical "Hamilton," as part of the gala set for Dec. 2.

Before last year's program, several honorees threatened a boycott if President Donald Trump attended. He and first lady Melania Trump decided to skip the event "to allow the honorees to celebrate without any political distraction," as the White House put it.

The White House said it's too early to know whether Trump will participate in this year's ceremony. Trump may attend the Group of

20 summit in Argentina, which ends Dec. 1.

Glass said he hopes Trump does show up as a conciliatory gesture to the arts community.

"If he were to come, it would represent a real broadening of his perspective," Glass said. "American arts really is our biggest contribution to the world, far more than our politics." Last year, the Kennedy Center's president, Deborah F. Rutter, publicly thanked Trump for allowing the night to focus solely on the arts and the honorees. But she also said she hoped to see the president attend in the future.

"I always hope that the person in that office makes a point of showing as much support for American arts and culture as his predecessors did and as his successors will," Rutter said in an interview.

The "Hamilton" honor marks



In this Aug. 21, 2016, file photo, singer and actress Cher talks to media as she leaves a fundraiser for Hillary Clinton at Provincetown Museum in Provincetown, Mass.

Associated Press

a first-time honor for a specific piece of art, and a first for a contemporary work. The award will go to the four main creators of the musical: writer and actor Lin-Manuel Miranda, director Thomas Kail, choreographer Andy Blankenbuehler

and music director Alex Lacamoire.

The musical is playing at the Kennedy Center through mid-September.

"This work has had such a huge impact in such a short time. It not only changed the way that people think

about art, it changed the way they think about history and the storytelling of history," said Rutter, who didn't think awards like this would become regular events. "We felt it was important to honor it in real time and not 30 years in the future."

The four men said in a statement that the honor was "humbling beyond our wildest expectations for our show."

One of the special aspects of the Kennedy Center program is that each recipient is given a personalized introduction and performance by participants kept secret from the honoree.

McEntire has served as one of those surprises for four past honorees: Dolly Parton, Loretta Lynn, Lily Tomlin and Carol Burnett.

"When the curtain went up, I could see the surprise in their eyes," she said. "I can't wait to see who they come up with for me." □

For US pot companies, Canada is the land of opportunity

By GILLIAN FLACCUS

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Green Thumb Industries had a business plan, expertise and plenty of ambition to grow its marijuana business. What the Chicago-based company didn't have was access to enough capital to make it all happen.

So last month, the company with \$20 million in revenue from pot shops in seven states turned its gaze north and went public in Canada, where marijuana soon will be broadly legalized nationwide.

The Canadian Securities Exchange is quickly becoming the go-to place for U.S. cannabis companies orphaned by their own stock exchanges because the U.S. government still considers marijuana an illegal drug.

Green Thumb took over a publicly traded Canadian company, added an "Inc." to its name and went public. The company raised \$67 million U.S. dollars, money that will allow Green Thumb to get licenses in new states and open more retail stores across America.

"The phone rings more, we're talking to more people, and business has expanded," company founder Ben Kovler said. "We're just excited about what's happening."

In recent months, prominent U.S. pot companies including MedMen, Liberty Health Care and Chalice Farms have listed on the Canadian Securities



In this Wednesday, July 11, 2018, photo, Ben Kovler, CEO, Green Thumb Industries poses for a portrait at the company's office in Chicago.

Associated Press

Exchange, raising capital and drawing attention from wealthy investors in Asia, Europe and Australia who want to make a play in the cannabis industry but are spooked by the U.S. federal prohibition.

Many more U.S. marijuana companies are lined up to join them as the U.S. industry quickly expands. Acreage Holdings, one of the United States' largest vertically integrated cannabis companies, announced Monday it will list on the Canadian Securities Exchange this fall because it's

become the "exchange of choice for U.S. companies like ours."

Two-thirds of U.S. states now allow medical marijuana, and nine of them and Washington, D.C., have legalized recreational use. Last month, voters in Oklahoma approved medical marijuana, further evidence of the eroding opposition even in conservative states.

U.S. companies need quick access to money to snap up limited production and retail licenses so they can quickly establish themselves in new markets.

"If you don't get in and get on, you're out," said William Simpson, founder of Chalice Farms, an Oregon company that was acquired last year by a publicly traded Canadian company called Golden Leaf Holdings. "Time is of the essence. You need money now, and you need it yesterday."

Last week provided evidence of American investors' willingness to jump into the marijuana market if given the chance. U.S. stock exchanges will not list companies that do business where marijuana is illegal, but several Canadian companies trade in the U.S.

because their business is legal in the country where they are based.

Tilray Inc., a British Columbia-based medical marijuana company, became the first cannabis business to complete an initial public offering on a major U.S. stock exchange when it began trading on Nasdaq. It raised \$153 million and the stock jumped nearly 33 percent on its first day of trading.

Chris Barry, a partner at the Dorsey and Whitney law firm in Seattle, handles marijuana investment deals and mergers in the U.S. and Canada. He noted that

major institutional investors, including the century-old New York investment bank Cowen, were involved in Tilray's IPO.

"The lesson is that the institutions will be there if you have a good business plan and your business is 100 percent legal in the jurisdiction you're in," he said.

That's the problem in the U.S. While more states approve legal marijuana, the federal government — and especially U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions — remain opposed, creating uncertainty for banks and investors.

"There's pent-up demand all over the world, and all over in the U.S., and it's all getting forced into Canada," said Troy Dayton, chief executive of The Arcview Group, an Oakland, California-based cannabis investment and market research firm. "Every large investor and every large company is salivating over this market now, but they're held back because of the uncertainty."

Meantime, U.S. consumer spending on marijuana is exploding. It was \$8.5 billion in 2017 — the year before California became the world's largest legal marijuana market — and is projected to reach nearly \$24 billion in the next four years, according to Arcview.

U.S. companies that list in Canada are seeing eyebrow-raising valuations because investors hungry to get a piece of the cannabis action have nowhere else to go, Dayton said. □



In this June 2, 2016 file photo, founder of Chalice Farms, holds display of cannabis-infused truffles, chocolates and gummy candies at the company headquarters in Portland, Ore.

Associated Press



In this Friday, Jan. 12, 2018 file photo, customers line up for recreational marijuana outside of MedMen, a dispensary in West Hollywood, Calif.

Associated Press